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PRE-9/11 ATTACK
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Christopher Columbus or Cristofor Colom?

Columbus' Catalan roots finally revealed

The discoverer's Italian origins are laid to rest by a new historical study

In fact, he was a corsair who was forced to conceal his Catalan nationality

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The unholy row over Gaudí's Cripta Güell

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Try your strength at Argentona's ceramics fair



A family make their way to the international flight terminal at Girona, a scene that has become increasingly common since the advent of cheap flights / LLUÍS SERRAT

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coreography by **Antonio Canales**



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Columbus or Colom?

New research shown on Discovery Channel reveals the explorer was a Catalan corsair

NEIL STOKES

Catalan claims that Christopher Columbus was born in Catalonia and not Genoa are usually put down to an inflated sense of nationalism. However, evidence presented on the Discovery Channel this week strongly supports the Catalan theory. Columbus, or Colom as he is known in Catalonia, was almost certainly a Catalan privateer forced to conceal his roots for political reasons. While it's not unusual for the murkiness of the explorer's origins to propagate wild hypotheses - it has been argued that he was Norwegian or even a Byzantine prince - studies led by mediaeval historian Charles Merrill completely rule out the accepted notion of Columbus as the son of lowly Italian weavers. Historians and scientists involved in the documentary use a variety of modern techniques from DNA testing on the sailor's exhumed remains to a minute examination of his writing style in order to ascertain the truth behind the question, Who was Columbus?

While Columbus' Italian origins have long been in doubt (he didn't know Italian, never referred to himself as such and his son was unable to find any relatives in Genoa), proof of his Catalan origins has been lacking up until now. Research into his writing has discovered that the Spanish he wrote is riddled with traces of Catalan. Both the vocabulary and the shape of the handwriting itself suggest a Catalan using Spanish as a second language. Another factor is his name as both Columbus and Colón, the Spanish version, were given to him later; the name used by himself and others at the time was Colom, a common Catalan surname. Not only was Columbus' coat of arms before his first voyage Catalan, but many of the places he named in the Indies, such as Montserrat, were named after Catalan places. As to why Columbus would want to hide his Catalan background, the programme speculates that it could have been down to an incriminating past. The researchers believe that Columbus may have been involved in the civil war that preceded the reign of the Catholic kings. Fernando of Aragón was not only the husband of Isabel of Castille but also the son of Juan II of Aragón against whom it is believed Columbus fought, thereby forcing him to obscure his origins.

Theories of a secret past are also strengthened by the assertion that Columbus was Jewish. Again studies of his handwriting reveal a knowledge of Hebrew. Concealing a



Jewish ancestry would have been sensible in a country from which the Jews were expelled and where the Inquisition was active. Yet DNA testing of bone fragments taken from Columbus' grave in Seville by the Laboratory of Genetic Identification in Granada appear to rule out Jewish roots. Commenting on the test results, José Antonio Llorente, director of the laboratory affirms in the documentary that Columbus was, "almost certainly caucasian."

Not that such evidence is likely to

stop others from challenging the findings. There is already doubt about whether the bones examined are actually those of Columbus. Even in Catalonia where the theory that the discoverer was Catalan is enthusiastically accepted there are arguments about which part he came from. While many experts will only accept that he was a member of the noble Colom family in Barcelona, others have evidence showing that he was a member of the powerful Coloms of Ibiza, who were con-

verted Jews. Researchers are unlikely to give up their pet theories that Columbus came from Galicia, Valencia or Toledo and will continue fighting their corner. As Columbus expert, Nito Verdera writes in his book, *Cristóbal Colón, Catalanoparlante*, "Are we able to clear up all the mystery surrounding Columbus by classifying him beyond any doubt as a Catalan speaker? I believe not. What I am saying will continue to fall on deaf ears." Who was Christopher Columbus? Who knows?

Columbus not the only one, claims author

NEIL STOKES

Serious study on Columbus' Catalan origins began in 1927 with the Peruvian historian, Lluís Ulloa and has continued to the present day with the likes of Jordi Bilbeny. Born in Arenys de Mar in 1961, Bilbeny received his doctorate in modern history from Barcelona University and is on the board of the Centre d'Estudis Colomins of the Omium Cultural. He has published dozens of articles in magazines about Spanish censorship of the truth behind the discovery of America. In his book, *Brevíssima relació de la destrucció de la Història. La Falsificació de la Descoberta Catalana d'Amèrica* (1998) Bilbeny reviews a series of documents related to the discovery of America by Columbus, showing how historical truth has been manipulated. The book reveals the efforts, first by early censors and later by certain historians, to hide the truth of Catalan involvement in the early history of the American continent. The book was made into a documentary film last year under the title *L'Apropiació de la descoberta d'Amèrica: una conspiració d'Estat?*

Bilbeny claims that the whole subject of a Catalan Columbus is still controversial. In an interview with *Avui* last year, he described how publishers, after showing initial enthusiasm about printing his theories, then go on to lose their nerve later on. "Everyone accepts that history is written by the victors," he comments, "And so we are willing to swallow it all in order to believe ourselves victors." Bilbeny's belief that Catalans have constantly been misrepresented and censored can be seen in his willingness to consider the theory that Cervantes himself was possibly Catalan. "Which Castilian would write the story of a mad Castilian who recovers his reason in Catalonia?" he asks. His list of possible Catalans includes Sant Ignasi de Loyola who set up the Jesuit order and Santa Teresa de Jesús.

Güell Crypt: Restoration or mutilation

The Catalan government has formed a commission to rethink the church reconstruction plan

The restoration project at Colònia Güell in Santa Coloma de Cervelló has brought critics out of the woodwork saying that the crypt has begun to lose its Gaudí feeling

RAÛL MAIGÍ / ALEX LEFF

"We want to create a commission to analyse in great detail what has been done and what remains to finish the project, and evaluate it adequately in the Gaudí spirit." These were the words of the Catalan general director of Heritage, Francesc Tharrats, referring to one of the most admired, and disputed, works by the architect Antoni Gaudí, the Güell Crypt. The commission will hold regular meetings starting in September, to discuss what future lies in store for this historic landmark, located in Santa Coloma de Cervelló near the Llobregat River. In other words, to build or not to build is the question at hand.

The move by the Catalan Department of Culture is a sure sign that there continues to be unrest on both sides of the debate. Just days before the organisation *Disbarat a la Colònia Güell* (roughly translated as Nonsense in the Güell Village) complained once again that they considered it inappropriate for there to be any further construction on the crypt. Along with the no-nonsense group, the project has brought other pundits out of the woodwork such as SOS Monuments and professor Reiner Graefe. On the other hand, as head of Barcelona city landmark, and in charge of the crypt project, Antoni González Moreno believes that the works, which began in 1999, should continue as scheduled.



An exterior and interior view of the crypt at the Güell textile estate after public works were under way

Aranese tourist office awarded distinguished "Q" for quality

The customer services office for Val d'Aran Tourism has been rated with the distinguished "Q" for quality. Office manager Manolo Español has expressed his satisfaction for having achieved the mark of approval. His department is the first information office in Catalonia to brand the "Q", which is granted by the Spanish Institute for Tourism Quality. There are currently 80 different Catalan establishments that have been approved, most of them being tourist lodgings.

Tourism Val d'Aran won the certificate after ten months of hard work and negotiations, according to Español. The office manager was gratified to have earned the "Q", as it is "a mark of quality that his clients demand," he says. He says the office's status is as much a result of private investment and renovated facilities as it is of his staff's desire to provide a quality destination. The information office is located in Vielha, right beside the Aranese capital city hall. It employs three full time workers and three part time.

Coral that glows in the dark discovered

A glow-in-the-dark coral has been found in the South China Sea, along with eleven species of fish not previously recorded. Some sixty scientists were aboard the Malaysian ship, "Allied Commander," when it docked Monday after an 42-day expedition. They discovered such unusual creatures as sawfish of the genus "Epinephelus," which had never been seen before, according to reports in *The New Straits Times*. The head of the scientific team, marine biologist Zulficar Yasin, assistant dean at the University of Science of Malaysia, says that the cause of the coral's strange luminescence is unknown. Five universities and 11 state agencies took part in the 7,000 km expedition.

Argentona celebrates today the popular Fira del Càntir as part of the International Pottery Fair

MARCELA TOPOR

The famous Fira del Càntir is starting today in Argentona as part of the 54th International Ceramics and Pottery Fair, which has been celebrated in the Maresme town every year since 1951. The event is celebrating today its highest point, with the popular Festa del Càntir, which will be held in Plaça del Vendre and will include among other activities the popular càntir-lifting competitions, with càntirs weighing up to 300 kg. Another attraction of the fair

is the exhibition *Birth*, created by the Japanese artist Yuhki Tanaka, which will be displayed at the Museu del Càntir until 29 August. The Argentoní artist Josep Serra has also opened his exhibition *Estructures i calaixos* at the Casa Gòtica on 2 August. According to the mayor of Argentona, Antoni Soy, the Pottery Fair has become the most important event of the genre in all southern Europe. More details about the event are offered on the fair's webpage www.firaceramica.org



A panoramic view of people participating in the càntir-lifting competition

World's first transparent ceramic lens

Casio announced yesterday that using its proprietary optical technology, the company has developed the world's first lens using transparent ceramics. This breakthrough will make it possible to create zoom lenses for cameras with greatly reduced profiles. Ever since Casio's Exilim thin card-size digital camera went on sale, the entire market has undergone a huge change. Compact cameras offering mobility in a small package have become mainstream.

Top medical specialists to convene at Barcelona congress next month

The event will feature the latest advances in the field of "minimally invasive" surgical techniques

ROBERT KIMPLETON

The Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe (CIRSE) will hold its nineteenth annual congress from 25 to 29 September at the Palau de Congressos de Catalunya in Barcelona. During the five-day event, more than 3,000 leading medical specialists and researchers will analyse the latest advances in the field of interventional radiology.

Interventional radiology involves the use of imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance and echography as well as small needles or catheters to examine blood vessels or other parts of the body in order to make diagnoses as well as carry out treatments and surgery for a variety of illnesses.

Specialists at the congress will be discussing and presenting the latest techniques for different kinds of minimally invasive surgery, which involve using smaller incisions so that the patient suffers a minimal amount of physical discomfort immediately after surgery. The small catheters, or tubes, used in these procedures are usually only a few millimetres in diameter, which is why the interventions are often called "pinhole surgeries".

According to the CIRSE, there are several advantages to this type of surgery over more conventional methods. Minimally invasive surgery can dramatically reduce the length of days that a patient must remain in hospital following surgery and shorten the amount of time that a patient needs for recovery. The



A doctor performing an echocardiogram on a patient at the Joan XIII hospital in Tarragona / SEBASTIÀ ABRAHAM

level of risk for patients is lower than for open surgeries, and the level of post-operative pain can be dramatically lower than with conventional techniques.

The implications for public health systems that are under pressure to limit expenditures are quite significant, as hospital expenses and

rehabilitation time can be reduced substantially.

Other themes that will be covered during the congress include endovascular management of carotid artery disease, the treatment of myomas (benign growths) inside the uterus, and major aortic surgery. Also to be discussed are therapies for

tumours for patients of all ages, from infants to those over the age of 70. CIRSE is a non-profit association founded in 1985 with the objective of promoting research, training and exchange of ideas and knowledge for its 1,400 members. Its central office is located in Zurich, Switzerland.

Ancient human settlement discovered

AGENCIES

The archeological dig carried out during July in cave 120 at Sales de Llierca (Garrotxa) has revealed evidence confirming that the cave was home to humans over 150,000 years ago. Archeologists say that this find "is an extremely important piece of news with respect to research into human occupation of the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula in remote ages".

In the centre of the cave remains of bones of deer, cattle, wild pigs, horses and, especially, wild goat were found, all showing marks that were made using stone tools. In addition, the archeologists have discovered stone implements and coal traces left by fires, which has led archeologists to claim that "the centre of the cave was the focus for human activity, where the Neanderthal people took shelter and slept".



The remains of a goat's jaw bone, one of the items which has been discovered in the cave in La Garrotxa / EL PUNT

SAUDI ARABIA

Irishman killed in Riyadh

An Irish national was killed yesterday in his office in the eastern sector of the Saudi capital of Riyadh, Al-Arabiya satellite news channel reported. The channel did not identify the victim or give other details of the incident. This was the first attack on a Westerner since the beheading of American engineer Paul Johnson. Saudi security forces executed Abdul Aziz al-Muqrin, head of "Al-Qaeda in the Arabian peninsula," and three others associated with the abduction and Johnson killing. The beheading was the last of a wave of attacks on Western expatriates in Saudi Arabia by suspected Al-Qaeda extremists that began in early May.

SPACE

Messenger lifts off to Mercury

After being delayed for one day due to poor weather conditions, NASA's Messenger probe was launched yesterday early morning in a long journey towards Mercury, the closest planet to the Sun. This is the first spacecraft to investigate the planet since the spacecraft Mariner 10 visited the planet in the mid 1970s. Messenger probe is expected to arrive in orbit around Mercury in 2011. Once in orbit, and using its seven instruments, the probe will study the planet's surface, the composition of its core, the atmosphere and the magnetic field. The total cost of the mission is 427m dollars (355.3m euros). Scientists believe there can be water ice in Mercury's poles, although temperatures in the equator reach 800 degrees Fahrenheit (427 degrees Celsius, 700 degrees Kelvin).

FINLAND

Web addicts escape army draft

A number of Finnish conscripts have been excused their full term of military service because they are addicted to the Internet, the Finnish Defence Forces says. Doctors have found the young men miss their computers too much to cope with their compulsory six months in the forces. "For people who play (Internet) games all night and don't have any friends, don't have any hobbies, to come into the army is a very big shock," said Commander-Captain Jyrki Kivela at the military conscription unit on Tuesday. "Some of (the conscripts) go to the doctor and say they can't stay. Sometimes, the doctors have said they have an Internet addiction," Kivela said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Back-to-front art

A South African museum is to open an exhibition of 17th Century Dutch Master paintings all hung the wrong way around with the artwork facing the wall. Curator Andrew Lamprecht said the "Flip" exhibition opening in Cape Town next month represents "a conceptual art intervention", explaining that the reverse of the paintings revealed a wealth of detail not normally on view to the public, ranging from old attempts to preserve the canvas to notes from various collectors. "These are fascinating things to see from behind," he said.

US newspapers uncover Bush government's old news sources

"The New York Times" and "The Washington Post" report that evidence for alert is years old

REUTERS, WASHINGTON

Much of the information obtained by al Qaeda that led the United States to raise terror alerts in Washington and New York was at least three years old, and US officials are unsure if the group's surveillance continues, according to published reports yesterday.

The *Washington Post* and *The New York Times* reported in yesterday's editions that officials were still analysing documents seized late last month after a raid in Pakistan that showed al Qaeda surveillance of specific US targets. Documents, computers, surveillance reports and sketches were recovered related to the capture of suspected al Qaeda computer expert Muhammad Naeem Noor Khan, also known as Abu Talha, in July, officials said.

Much of the information that resulted from the arrest was compiled before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, *The New York Times* reported, citing intelligence and law enforcement officials. Federal authorities said they are unsure whether al Qaeda's surveillance continues, the newspapers reported. "You could say that the bulk of this information is old, but we know that al Qaeda collects, collects, collects until they're comfortable," a senior government official was quoted in the *Times* as saying. "Only then do they carry out an operation. And there are signs that some of this may have been updated or may be more recent."

The *Post* cited officials as saying that much of the information al Qaeda gathered on buildings in Washington, New York and Newark, New Jersey, was obtained through the Internet or other "open sources" available to the general public, including floor plans. "What we've uncovered is a collection operation as opposed to the launching of an attack," said a senior American official quoted by the *Post*.

US officials have previously



The Statue of Liberty became a welcome figure to the immigrants arriving at Ellis Island / MIGUEL RAJMIL

Statue of Liberty reopens after 9/11 attacks

Despite the recent terrorist attack threats, the Statue of Liberty reopened yesterday for the first time since September 11, 2001. The second of the hijacked planes had flown just over the Statue seconds before crashing into the World Trade Center's south tower. Liberty Island was then closed to the public for two months and now visitors are admitted again inside the Statue of Liberty, although the crown will

remain closed. The public is now allowed to the observation deck located at the top of the pedestal, about 16 stories above ground. A glass ceiling has been built so that visitors can observe the interior of the monument. Moreover, tourists also have the chance to visit a reopened museum that tells the story of the statue, from its arrival in 1886. All tours have to be booked in advance to prevent visitor congestion.

warned of possible attacks before the presidential election in November. The latest warnings on Sunday were of al Qaeda threats to attack symbols of US financial might such

as the New York Stock Exchange, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund, among other targets in the New York area and Washington.

Al Qaeda was behind the Sept. 11 hijacked plane attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center in New York and struck the Pentagon in Washington.

Spain's opposition party knocks Zapatero for dispute over Gibraltar

AGENCIES / ALEXLEFF

While the people of Gibraltar commemorated the 300th anniversary of the capture by British forces of a tiny peninsula on the southern coast of Spain, the mood around some Spanish party headquarters was not so celebratory. Spain's former governing party, Partido Popular (PP), is particularly annoyed with the way the current administration has handled the affair, accusing prime min-

ister Zapatero of not having what it takes to avoid scuffles with prime minister Blair over Gibraltar.

The PP has noticed a "visible breakdown in the quality and fluidity of communication" between the governments of Spain and the UK, it says. The opposition party criticises the socialists for not maintaining relations with a "personal tone." In a statement it underscored "the inconsistencies and the errors" of the

socialist government concerning the territory. The Gibraltar controversy has never been such a serious issue as it is now, the PP says.

The charges targeted the Spanish prime minister in particular, saying "Zapatero has demonstrated a lack of capacity and influence when dealing with Blair." The PP points to the return of the military submarine *Tireless* as a prime display of the socialist's inefficacy.

Regarding the visit by the UK defence minister and royal authorities for the commemoration, the statement calls the event "inopportune, unnecessary and disturbing" for ongoing negotiations between the two countries on the possible sovereignty of Gibraltar. On the other hand, in terms of Anglo-Spanish relations, the PP has reminded the socialists that it lends its support in "its protests" with British authorities.

UNITED KINGDOM

Britain resists security alert

Britain resisted calls to match America's high state of alert after warnings that al Qaeda bombers might strike and played down concerns yesterday of an immediate security threat. The opposition Conservative Party demanded that prime minister Tony Blair detail the terror threat to Britain after the United States Monday increased security and raised the nation's alert to "High." The US warning was prompted by Pakistan's capture of a suspected al Qaeda computer expert which yielded documents, computers, surveillance reports and sketches. British newspapers said the material also indicated threats against unspecified targets in the UK.

IRAQ

7 Iraqis and 4 US troops killed

Insurgents launched a fresh wave of attacks in Iraq, killing six Iraqi national guardsmen in a suicide car bombing and four US soldiers in separate incidents in Baghdad and the volatile west of the country. A roadside bomb yesterday also killed a local police chief in Baghdad, just hours before prime minister Iyad Allawi was due to return home after trying to win support from neighbouring countries to stabilise Iraq. The suicide car bomb blast at a checkpoint outside the town of Baquba wounded six other Iraqi guardsmen, said National Guard Lieutenant Mohyamed al-Dulaimi.

PRISONER ABUSE

Iraq jail finds cover-up

The US general formerly in charge of Baghdad's notorious Abu Chraib prison said yesterday abuse of Iraqi captives was hidden from her, in a cover-up that may reach all the way to the Pentagon or White House. Speaking on the same day, a US soldier at the centre of the prisoner abuse scandal is due to face a military court, Brigadier-general Janis Karpinski said she was deliberately kept in the dark about abuse and humiliation of Iraqi prisoners.

BALKANS

War out and gender politics in

In the old days, a woman in the Balkans belonged in the kitchen and a man went off to fight for the glory of the nation. Nowadays, women's rights and legislation to curb family violence is on the upswing. Women make up more than half of Bosnia's population. Many who left the kitchen to fend for the family after the death of a husband or son are challenging their traditional roles. Aid and rights groups have been lobbying governments on gender equality issues for years and a state law was passed in Bosnia last year, and Croatia then followed suit.

FLOOD

Bangladesh appeals for aid

Bangladesh, suffering from its worst floods in six years, will need food aid for 20 million people until the end of this year. The food is needed because crops and jobs have been lost in the floods, food and disaster management minister says.

PLATFORM

NEIL STOKES

Between a rock and a hard place

Legend has it that Gibraltar will be British for as long as the barbary apes survive. The small colony represents the only native European monkeys in existence and receives round-the-clock protection from the British Army. Perhaps the Spanish government could resort to attacking the apes in a desperate bid to dislodge the British from the contentious rock. It is as likely to happen as the British deciding to leave of their own accord. This week, the Spanish government protested in the strongest terms possible, calling the visit of UK Defence Secretary, Geoff Hoon to commemorate Gibraltar's 300 year anniversary "intolerable". This is the third time this year (after the visits of Princess Anne and the nuclear submarine, HMS Tireless) that the government has been up in arms about British activities on the Rock. The response from Gibraltar's chief minister, Peter Caruana, was blunt: "It's none of their business," he said. Caruana went on to accuse the Spanish political classes of being obsessed with the Gibraltar issue. It is difficult not to agree when Spanish politicians claim that a bit of flag waving is "offensive" to Spaniards when typical Spaniards (and anyone who has spent more than five minutes in a place like Catalonia can see such a thing does not exist) are busy enjoying their holidays and couldn't care less.

Gibraltar was officially ceded to the British in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 after British troops had captured the Rock on 4 August 1704. It has dogged relations between the



Geoff Hoon and Peter Caruana during Gibraltar's celebrations this week / EFE

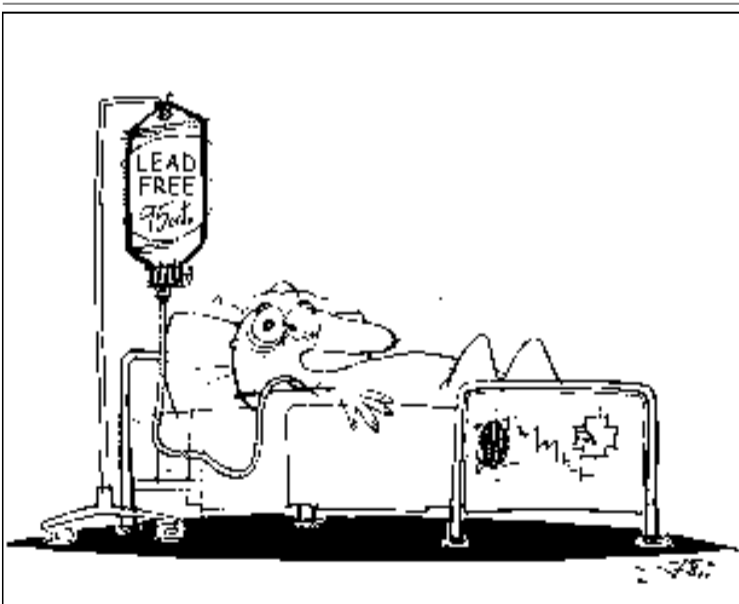
countries for years, with every Spanish government since the transition to democracy reacting in the same predictable way: with apologetic fury. Whatever the strength of Spain's claim on Gibraltar (and here would be a good place to bring up Spain's own clinging to the remnants of empire in North Africa), what is relevant is that the strategy of hysterical chest-beating that Spanish governments indulge in has got them nowhere. The Spanish govern-

ment is perfectly aware that in the 1969 Gibraltar constitution, the British government made a pledge to, "never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes." In other words, the British would find it difficult to get the Rock off their hands even if they were desperate to. Yes, but it's just not fair, you can almost hear the Span-

ish government cry.

According to government vice-president, Maria Teresa Fernández de la Vega, the British government has re-opened wounds with this commemoration of an event that has divided, "allies and friends....It is uncalled for and unfortunate." Actually, she is wrong: It is the Spanish government that has re-opened the wounds, a running sore, in fact, that just gets worse the more they pick at it. In flying off the handle in this way they have merely given the opposition a chance to (justly) criticise them and Caruana the opportunity to represent their indignation as, "just an attempt by Spain...to create a live issue of Gibraltar's sovereignty when it's not a live issue." De la Vega is also wrong in calling the celebrations "unfortunate" when what is truly unfortunate is that this new government has wasted, for the third time this year, an opportunity to change the script where Gibraltar is concerned and shows some originality and creativity in getting their land back. There are two telling examples of how modern British governments have handled the return of territory with the Falkland Islands, which ended in war, and with Hong Kong, which was considered a complete success. Gibraltar is not in any way similar to either of those scenarios, except that the issue of Britain voluntarily handing back territory is a tricky one that would require intelligent, careful management. What should be offensive to voting Spaniards is how their government has let them down. Mind you, they could always try shooting the monkeys.

THE STING BY JAP



HOW DIFFERING EXPERIENCES CAN COLOUR A VISITOR'S VIEW OF A CITY

Your item "Biting the hand that feeds you", I have personally had nothing but warmth and politeness from the people of Barcelona. However, I did sit next to a couple when flying to the UK who had experienced exactly what your article was talking about. These people were, after just one weekend-long visit, already feeling that they did not want to return to Barcelona. I hope that they will return after I spent some time telling them about some of the lovely places and people I had visited and met. However, it really is easy to put people off. The rich diversity of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

life, cultures, and people in Barcelona is a valuable asset which should not be squandered./ **Robert Bakerville**

A MODISTA PROPOSAL

Michael Bunn's proposed solution to the overabundance of tourists in Catalonia is an interesting one, however, I see a possible problem. In 1809, he says, there were 9,000 French prisoners on Cabrera. If we were to put 9,000 of our tourists there, many of them coming from those heftier northern countries, the collective, um, poundage, might be enough to sink the island. I suggest an alternative, which would not only reduce numbers but increase

revenue and improve aesthetics: the fashion passport. It would work like this: fashion checkpoints would be set up at airports and border crossings, manned by Catalans of impeccable good taste. (Perejaume himself, for example) to vigilate for such sartorial offences as socks'n'sandals, fishermen's hats, Brazilian football t-shirts, tattoos depicting sci-fi or Disney characters or bellies that are just, well, too out. Those who do not pass muster would face immediate deportation (perhaps to a fashion rehabilitation unit on Cabrera) or be rerouted via Zara, Adolfo Domínguez etc. for a thorough makeover. Tourists: Benvinguts a Barcelona, pero posa't guapo/a/ **Roxanne**



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Unemployment in Spain drops while Catalonia sees rise in July

The number of jobless people decreased by 40,959 in Spain and increased by 7,908 in Catalonia

AGENCIES

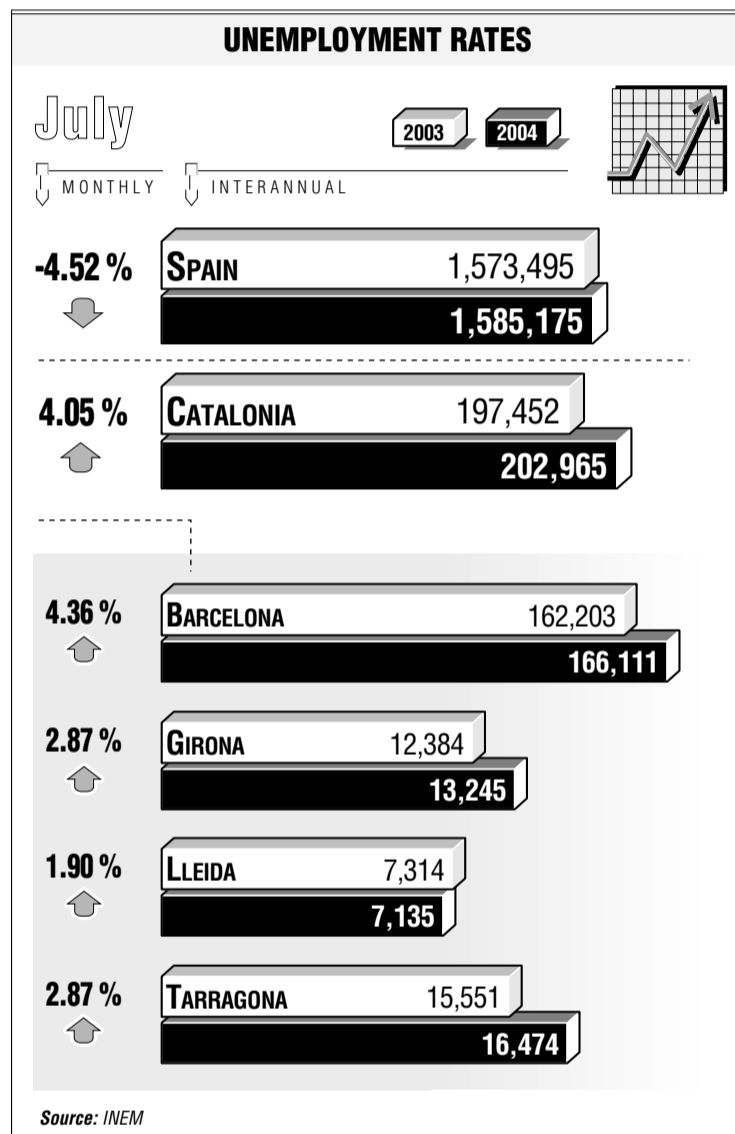
The number of jobless people officially registered with the National Employment Institute (INEM) decreased by 40,959 people in July for the whole of Spain while figures for Catalonia showed an increase of 7,908, according to figures released yesterday by the Ministry of Labour.

The figures for Spain represent a drop of 2.52 per cent compared to June, making July the sixth straight month that the jobless rate has fallen. Current figures put the total number of unemployed in Spain at 1,585,175.

The jobless rate for the active population in Catalonia is now 6.34 per cent. July unemployment went up in all four Catalan provinces, with Barcelona registering 6,946 more unemployed people (4.6% more than in June), followed by Tarragona with 460 more (2.9%), Girona with 369 (2.9%), and Lleida with 133 (1.9%). In the rest of Spain, unemployment went down in 14 autonomous communities and rose in only three.

Figures for July also show that Spanish unemployment decreased in all sectors of the economy. Leading the decreases was the service sector (with 21,482 fewer unemployed), followed by industry (3,892), agriculture (2,894), construction (92). In addition 12,599 people who had never been employed found jobs.

More women than men found jobs last month, with 27,237 fewer jobless women compared to 13,722 men who found jobs. The total number of jobless women is now 956,698, while there are 628,477 unemployed men. Compared with fig-



ures from July of last year, male unemployment actually rose by 2,404 people (0.38 per cent) and female unemployment went up by 9,276

(0.98 percent). At the same time, unemployment for those under 25 actually decreased by 19,015 (7.9 percent).

Increase in Social Security registrations

The number of workers registered with the Social Security Administration went up in July by a record amount of 124,216 people, 0.72 per cent more than the previous month, leaving the total number registered with the agency at 17,280,888, according to figures provided by the Ministry of Labour.

Of that number, 13,093,069 are registered as employees, while 2,859,170 are self-employed. The number of foreigners registered with Social Security was 1,965,334 in July, which represents a 12.7 per cent interannual increase. 809,486 of foreign workers were from non-EU countries (10.3 per cent more than in July 2003), while 255,848 were from EU member countries (representing a 21.2 per cent interannual increase).

By gender, data gathered show that of the total number of people registered with the Social Security Administration, 10,421,854 were men and 6,859 were women. The number of women registered showed an interannual increase of 4.2 per cent, compared to a 1.8 per cent increase for men.

OIL PRICES

Record high of \$44 a barrel

US oil prices hit fresh record highs above \$44 a barrel yesterday after the head of the OPEC producers' cartel said there was little the group could do to cool red-hot markets. US light crude struck \$44.24 a barrel, the highest since crude futures were launched on the New York Mercantile Exchange in 1983. It later fell to trade around \$44. London's Brent crude followed suit, scoring \$40.45 a barrel, a level not seen since the run-up to the first Gulf War when it hit an all-time high of \$40.95. Oil prices have surged by more than one-third since the end of 2003 on worries that accelerating global demand has left supplies tightly stretched with little leeway for disruption. OPEC President Purnomo Yusgiantoro said yesterday the cartel had no spare oil to hand to dampen prices.

BANK BUYOUT

Royal Bank cool on Abbey bid

Royal Bank of Scotland is not looking for big acquisitions and thinks a bid for rival Abbey National would be blocked by regulators. "We were clear on our position in the past, and our cards are on the table, faces up," Chief Executive Fred Goodwin told reporters when asked about Royal Bank's interest in Abbey yesterday. Britain's second-biggest bank by assets has said in the past it would like to buy Abbey, but that a deal would be vetoed by competition authorities. The Competition Commission blocked Lloyds TSB's 19 billion pound bid for Abbey in 2001, saying a takeover would give Lloyds too big a market share.

WORLD TRADE

Brazil wins subsidy "victory"

Agricultural powerhouse Brazil on Monday saw a \$10 billion trade boost from what President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called a victory in world trade talks to end rich nations' farm subsidies. Lula's centre-left government led poor nations in the World Trade Organization (WTO) talks that reached a deal at the weekend to end billions of dollars in export subsidies. "The key number is zero for export subsidies," Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim told reporters. Amorim expected the elimination of the subsidies to create around \$200 billion in extra trade for developing nations. He saw up to five percent, or \$10 billion, of that going to Brazil. A top exporter of sugar, coffee, meat, orange juice and soybeans, Brazil formed the G20 bloc of poor nations at WTO talks in Cancun, Mexico last year to dismantle rich nations' farm subsidies. The Cancun talks collapsed as the G20 tried to push agriculture into the center of talks. "Now subsidies are no longer such a huge obstacle to exports," Lula told a business conference.

Spain's GDP grows by 2.6 per cent during second quarter according to report by Bank of Spain

EFE

Spain's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 2.6 per cent in the second quarter of 2004, a figure which was influenced by a decreased exterior demand (1.3 per cent) and the levelling-off of domestic demand, which grew by 3.5 per cent, according to figures published yesterday in the latest report by the Bank of Spain on the state of the Spanish economy.

The report says that growth of the world economy has become "gener-

alised", although rising prices for oil and political instability in the world create "some doubts about the continuance and intensity of (economic growth)". The report characterised recent positive growth figures for euro-zone countries as "hopeful" while at the same time uncertainty about the strength of growth remain in spite of continued low interest rates. This uncertainty is due in part to lower levels of consumer confidence and the lethargic performance of the stock market.

The Bank of Spain does not see significant variations in the Spanish economy, although the bank is beginning to see some signs that could mark the beginning of changes in growth rates. Figures for external demand are down somewhat compared with the previous quarter, since foreign sales decreased while exportations continued to rise at a high rate, although the rate of growth had slowed.

With respect to domestic demand, household consumption

continued to grow during the second quarter, although at a lower level which might hint at a slight slowdown. The income available to families, which influences consumption, continues to grow in a sustained manner and by the end of the year could surpass the increase registered for 2003, the report said. The contribution of public agencies to economic growth is more significant than in 2003, according to the Bank of Spain, although this figure is expected to drop.

Sky-high discounts

From modest beginnings in the USA to 21st century European carriers such as Ryan Air and Easyjet, low-cost airlines have revolutionised air travel. Susana Olivera offers a glimpse of the past, present and future of this booming industry

SUSANNA OLIVEIRA

The first low-cost flight took off from the Dallas-Fort Worth airport in the United States in 1971. But, in Europe we had to wait until 1993, when the liberalisation of the air transport sector allowed new companies to compete with the traditional airlines, most of which were state-run. New companies, new policies and new commercial strategies have made it possible for airfares to come down a great deal.

Nowadays, it is relatively easy to travel to a major European city for 30 or 40 euros. One just needs to get onto internet, search around a bit, and have a credit card handy. The new low-cost airlines have ushered in a new way of travelling and have enticed more people to take last-minute weekend getaways, extra trips to their second homes, or even the odd impromptu business trip.

This is a new situation caused by the discounts in the sky and fares that are governed by the laws of supply and demand: the sooner one reserves his or her flight, the easier it is to get a good price. However, the typical in-flight meal will be replaced by a vending service for snack foods, the traditional ticket will be replaced by a reservation code, and if travellers reserve their tickets by telephone or through a travel agency, the fare will be higher. All of this reflects the philosophy of these companies: eliminate extras and offer more competitive fares.

"The elimination of aerial borders in Europe revolutionised the scene," explains Alvaro Midelmann, director of Air Berlin in Spain and Portugal. "And our old aspiration, which could create an even

greater revolution, is the open skies agreement that is currently being negotiated between the United States and Europe." Transatlantic flights are still governed by bilateral agreements.

This new business began in the mid-1990s, but the great boom in it has only occurred over the last two years. In the mid-1990s, there were only three companies in this market, Easyjet, Ryanair and British Airways' Go. At present, there are nearly fifty low-cost airlines operating in

The new low-cost airlines have made flying more affordable, ushering in a new era

New companies, policies and strategies have brought airfares down dramatically

Europe, the majority of which fly out of the British Isles and Central Europe, with routes mainly going to Mediterranean destinations. However, there are also many routes between the major cities throughout Europe.

THE LEADERS

Easyjet, one of the leaders in the sector, was created in 1995, flying a fleet of just two planes and operating out of a pre-fabricated building on the edge of London's Luton Airport, where it still has its headquarters. "A company without luxuries, infor-

mal and practical," they state, where ties are literally banned. Currently it has a fleet of 77 airplanes, with expectations of owning more than 160 in three years' time, and catering to more than 20 million passengers.

Another leader, the Irish company, Ryanair, has experienced a similar spectacular growth. It also began very discreetly, in 1985, with a daily flight between Waterford and London's Gatwick Airport with a 15-passenger plane. Nowadays, it flies to 84 European airports, and last year it transported 18 million passengers. It has a fleet of almost 60 planes and has ordered 100 more from Boeing. It is currently aiming at becoming Europe's number one airline in the next three years, ahead of British Airways and Lufthansa, according to its provocative president, Michael O'Leary, who once dressed up as Saint Peter to promote flights to Rome.

Currently there are three basic types of low-cost airlines: independent companies, like Easyjet, Ryanair, Volareweb and Virgin; subsidiaries of large airlines, like Basiq Air, which is part of the KLM group; and companies that depend on large travel agencies and tour operators, like Hapag-Lloyd.

THERE IS STILL BUSINESS TO DO

Despite the great boom in this new sector, there are still a great deal of opportunities, according to the views shared by the main low-cost airlines. "We are still in the infancy of this business," explains a public relations official for Ryanair, stating that there is still a great deal of room for growth before these kinds of airlines reach the kind of market share they currently have in the United States. And the numbers of passengers continue to rise. According to figures from the Association of European Airlines, last year there were more than 500 million air passengers in Europe, and of these, 150 million, or 30%, flew with a low-cost airline.

However, it is not known whether or not new companies will



Low-cost flights have contributed to the transformation of Girona's airport. Many of the tourists you'll see on the Rambles in Barcelona have arrived on these flights. Above, Ryanair president Michael O'Leary. / ARCHIVE

continue to spring up, nor how many will be able to survive the stiff competition. "If there are forty now, perhaps the day after tomorrow well have 70. You never know," jokes one official. However, Cristina Bernabé of Easyjet, seems to have a clearer view on this. "In Europe, there is a

market for 4 or 5 low-cost companies, no more. And the future of short trips will be TGVs and low-cost airlines." The traditional companies, Iberia among them, have tried to match this stiff competition with significant discounts and cuts in extra expenses, like food on board and commissions to travel agencies. Some have also created alliances, like KLM and Air France, and nobody seems to doubt that a new era of alliances between airlines has begun.

classifieds? It's easy





Flying no-frills by internet

SUSANNA OLIVEIRA

Low-cost airlines do business on the internet, save on paper and food, do away with all extras and get more flying time out of their airplanes. These are the secrets to their success. The airplane is seen as a taxi, a bus or a train linking two different cities together. This is basically the philosophy of most low-cost airlines, and this is the reason why they are able to offer the best fares.

Would anyone demand to be served a snack on a bus or train journey lasting less than two hours? And especially when airline food is such a target for criticism and jokes. "For two hours, a catering service is not necessary, especially when the people don't like it. Moreover, just the food tray itself could cost as much as 15 euros!", says Cristina Bernabé, spokesperson for Easyjet. And it is not just the cost of the tray and food. There are also the salaries of the people that serve the food on board and those that work with the catering companies, not to mention all the bureaucracy.

This does not mean travelling more cramped. Another of the key elements is that the low-cost airlines do not have a business class, so there are more seats in each plane. More seats and more hours of flying, because most of these companies' planes have minimal stopovers of about half an hour, and then they are in the air again. "We make money when we are flying", declares an Easyjet representative.

The airplanes owned by this leading British company fly about 11 or 12 hours a day, while those of traditional companies are in the air for an average of 6 hours.

They also save on paper. The traditional airline ticket has disappeared, replaced by a simple code which the company supplies when a customer makes a reservation and the customer's passport or national I.D. card. Thus, travel agents' commissions have also been eliminated, and the companies need fewer workers because most of the reservations are made through internet, where the lowest fare is always offered.

Most of these companies sell 94 to 98 percent of their tickets through the net, since doing it by phone or through a travel agent usually costs more.



Legal or illegal subsidies?

The political institutions assert that the money they give Ryanair does not go against the European Union's ruling that forced the Irish company to return part of the subsidies it had received from the Belgian airport, Charleroi. These subsidies have sparked off a real war among the companies and have also created uncertainty and confusion. Ryanair blames the EU for all of the confusion and for making them raise their prices with this decision. "The European Union got involved and muddled everything up," says one official, who admits that the company has complicated financial agreements.

Low-cost airlines are a good source of revenue for Catalonia

Just as low-cost airlines have revolutionised the skies, they have also raised expectations of the business community on the ground in the regions that they serve. And Catalonia, where twenty of these companies operate, is no exception.

These companies' use of secondary airports, due to their lower user fees, has transformed many of these facilities, which were virtual ghost towns in the winter and now are bustling centres of activity year-round. Girona and Reus are prime examples. Since Gi-

rona became the Ryanair's Southern European base, it has gone from serving basically private pilots and flight schools in the winter to accommodating 46 commercial flights a day, which connect it with 16 European cities. Reus, for its part, never had more than 2,500 to 3,000 passengers in winter, and now it has daily flights to and from London and Frankfurt-Hann (Ryanair), Cologne and Hannover (Hapag-Lloyd) and Madrid (Air Nostrum), and it expects the number of routes to increase. Joan Aregio, the president of the

Provincial Council of Tarragona, sees these companies as a good source of revenue for the different regions. But, each region has to make itself known to the passengers. Ryanair, which flies into Reus and Girona, sells these destinations as "Barcelona", and the institutions of these two provinces have begun a campaign to familiarise passengers with the different attractions and charms of their areas, so that the majority will not head straight to Barcelona and skip their regions entirely.

Just call now: 902 02 10 10



Mayor Joan Clos and José Natividad González, the Governor of Nuevo León and Mexican delegate for the Monterrey bid, after the announcement yesterday / LLUÍS CRUSET

Clos announces Monterrey to host the next Forum of Cultures in 2007

The Mexican stressed that they would avoid the pitfalls that have beset the Barcelona Forum

MICHAEL BUNN

Joan Clos, the mayor of Barcelona and president of the Forum of Cultures, announced yesterday that the Mexican city of Monterrey will be the location for the next Forum, to be held in 2007. Clos told a press conference that the administrative organisation Fundació Forum "has unanimously approved the Monterrey proposal" which was submitted yesterday by a Mexican delegation. The mayor added that the decision would be formalised "in September, to coincide with the end of Forum 2004, in an official act in

which we will hand over the baton".

The formal proposal was made by José Natividad González, the governor of Nuevo León, the capital of which is Monterrey. After expressing his great satisfaction at the decision, González went on to describe the plans that had been drafted for the Monterrey Forum, while mentioning in passing some of the "insufficiencies and deficiencies" of the Barcelona Forum though, he said this was "entirely normal" for such an event which was being held for the first time.

Thus, González said they did not

plan to charge people to enter the Forum area, only to attend "specific shows or events". He also declared that the Monterrey Forum will last for 90 days, and not 141, as in the case of Barcelona. He said that Monterrey would have fewer cultural events and they would not set such an ambitious target for visitor numbers as Barcelona had done. The initial target for the event in Barcelona had been five million, though this figure was withdrawn by the Forum organisation last week, without having been replaced by another figure.

The governor said that it had been

a mistake to "set a numerical target which was more suitable for international fairs and exhibitions than for a meeting point of ideas".

In contrast, González said that he estimated that the Monterrey Forum would receive "around a million visitors during the three-month period". He added that Monterrey "is one of the safest cities in Latin America", and stressed that the increase in revenge killings between gangs of drug traffickers recorded in Nuevo León during recent years "does not represent any risk for the organisation of the event".

Film commission announces Barcelona to be the location for three new films in autumn

MICHAEL BUNN

The city of Barcelona continues to be an irresistible location for filmmakers, as the Barcelona Plató film commission announced yesterday that three films, a drama, a TV movie and a documentary are currently in the production stage and will be filmed in Barcelona in the autumn. All three films will be made with the help of Barcelona Plató Film Commission, which has organised the necessary filming permits.

The first film, which will be co-directed by Juan Cruz and Jose Corbacho, is *Tapas*, a tragi-comedy that recounts the lives of a group of people who live in the same neighbourhood. The characters include an elderly couple facing up to their fear of death and loneliness, a young couple trying to find work, a bar owner who lives together with his wife and his new cook and a woman who is in love with a man that lives in Argentina, with whom she com-

municates over the Internet. One of the actors who has been confirmed for the film is Maria Galiana, who has become a familiar face on television recently as the grandmother in the TV series *Cuéntame que pasó*.

Meanwhile, another actor from the aforementioned TV series, Imanol Arias, will be starring in *Mentiras*, a film made for TV3 and Canal 9 which will be directed by Miguel Perelló. The film tells the double life of Fabian, a highly-successful judge

who cannot accept his own homosexuality. The problems start when Fabian falls deeply in love with Amadeus, and the relationship proves to be a trap from which Fabian cannot escape.

Finally, Jaime Camino will also be filming his new documentary *By the grace of God* in Barcelona. This documentary deals with the post-civil war period, and includes testimonies from people who lived through the age of hardship.

Baroque art remains discovered

Following restoration work to the Canonical chapel of Seu Vella in Lleida, significant remains of decorative paintings from the baroque have been discovered. A team of six specialists who were restoring fragments of paintings from the 13th century in the building also discovered paintings from the 16th century decorating the walls of one of the upper-floor rooms. In the next two years, the Ministry of Culture plans to complete the restoration of the chapel, which acted as a cathedral in Lleida during the 13th century. The chapel has been used for different purposes since the 13th century and has been renovated several times.

Theatre and dance shows in Tàrraga square

The internationally-renowned Tàrraga theatre festival, which runs from 9 to 12 September, will this year feature five companies performing at the Plaça de Nacions sense Estat. La Factoria Mascaró will be performing *Ai que em mulló!* (Hey, I'm getting wet!), which uses water as a link between the dancers and the spectators, Claire will be presenting her new dance work, *De Paseo* (Out for a walk) and the Basque company Gaitzerdi Teatro will be performing a show which combines dance and *son et lumière*.

Two unknown photographs in Dalí exhibition

The Museu del Juguè (Toy Museum), in Figueres, has recently acquired two previously unknown photographs of Salvador Dalí to exhibit in the exhibition *Els vint primers anys de Dalí*, on the painter's early years. One of the goals of the exhibition is to encourage the heirs of the people who actually met Dalí to dust off the family documents in search for any text or photograph related to the Catalan artist. And, apparently, this goal has been successfully completed: apart from the moving photographs in which Dalí appears with his sister Anna Maria, found in private files investigated by the organizers, two new pictures have been handed over by two individuals. One, taken in 1924, shows a teenager Dalí on Easter Sunday blessing two children, whereas the other shows the artist next to his work *Composition with three figures*.

Wednesday 4 August 2004

WEDNESDAY

4

Concerts

BARCELONA

- **La Pedrera. Fundació Caixa Catalunya.** Music from around the world, as part of the cycle of concerts *The Pedrera by Night*. Provença, 261. Friday and Saturday, 9.30 pm-12 pm. Tickets: 10 euros (refreshments included). Until August 28th.
- **Apolo.** Jamaican, Brazilian and Oriental music concert. As part of *Cannibal Sound System*. At 9:30 pm. Nou de la Rambla, 113.
- **CaixaForum.** Concert by Lola Casariego, mezzosoprano, and Juan Antonio Álvarez Parajo, piano. Works by Bellini, Rossini and Verdi. As part of *Músiques per a unes nits d'estiu*. At 10:30 pm. Av. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8.
- **Jamboree.** Jazz concert by Laura Simó and Francesc Capella Trio. At 11:00 pm. Plaça Reial, 17.
- **La Boîte.** Australian melting pot concert by The Cat Empire. At 12:00 am. Diagonal, 477.
- **London Bar.** Concert by Straight no trio. At 12:30 am. Nou de la Rambla, 34.
- **Los Tarantos.** Flamenco concert by Juan Cortés, Sara Flores and guest artists. At 8:30 pm. Plaça Reial, 17.
- **Moog.** Concert by DJ Oscar Mulero and DJ linn. At 1:30 am. Arc del Teatre, 3.
- **Pastís.** Rock concert by El Sobrino del Diablo. At 11:30 pm. Santa Mònica, 4.
- EL VENDRELL**
- **Plaça Nova.** Concert by Basque and Gascon band Xernegue. As part of *16è Festival de Música a la Vila*. At 10:00 pm.
- GIRONA**
- **Jardins del Museu d'Art.** Chamber music concert by Trio Romanyà & Sons. At 10 pm.
- MATARÓ**
- **Lasal.** Concert by Kosmos. At 11:00 pm.
- PRADES**
- **Església de Santa Maria La Major.** Clarinet and piano concert by Valeria Conti and Lluïsa Viñas. As part of *V Festival Internacional de Música*. At 10:00 pm.

Dance

BARCELONA

- **Gran Teatre del Liceu.** *Herrumbre* by Compañía Nacional de Danza. Mon to Fri 8:30 pm. Sat 5 and 9:30 pm. Until August 7th. Tickets: 5.75-76.75 euros. Rambles, 51-59.

Children

GIRONA

- **Museu del Cinema.** Animation film screening *Animac mobil 2004*. At 5:30 pm.

Opera

PERALADA

- **Castell de Peralada.** *Madame Butterfly*, with Cor Lieder Càmera de Sabadell and Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya. As part of *XVIII Festival Castell de Peralada*. At 10:00 pm.

Theatre

BARCELONA

- **Artenbrut Teatre.** *Élvino en un barco*, by Cia. Wai. Thurs to Sat 9:00 pm. Sun 6:00 pm. Check for tickets. Until August 29th. Perill, 9.
- **Teatre Nou Tantarantana.** *Diktat*, by Enzo Corman. Wed to Sat 9 pm, Sun 7 pm. Until August 22nd. Tickets: 13-16 euros. Flors, 22.
- **Versus Teatre.** *The backroom* by 4Productions. Wed to Sat 10:30 pm. Sun 8:30 pm. Tickets: 16 euros. Castillejos, 179.

Recommended | MARCELA TOPOR



Enrique Morente presents his latest album at El Grec

● The Granada-born *cantaor* Enrique Morente is presenting at the Teatre Grec his latest album, entitled *El Pequeño reloj* (The small clock), in which he puts poems by Quevedo, Bécquer and León Felipe to music and reflects upon the passing of time. Morente is the flamenco singer that most borrowed from Spanish poets such as Federico García Lorca, Miguel Hernández

and Antonio Machado. He has always fought against clichés and renovated the flamenco forms of expression, which often caused polemics between the defenders of the traditional *cante*. Nowadays he is considered one of the most influential figures on the professional flamenco scene and according to Ríos Ruiz, he “has invented the *cante* of the 21st century”.

“Amoríos y burlas” with Teatre del Repartidor

● Teatre del Repartidor is performing at the Forum until 26 August *Amoríos y burlas*, a show which brings together texts by greatest authors of the Spanish classical literature such as Quevedo, Lope de Vega and Max Aub. The work features the actors Anna Briansó, Francisco José Basilio and Júlia León, who plays live string music by Iñaki Aguirre. The director Pepa Clvo combines erotism and sarcasm in this show where actors and audience are free to communicate.

Guided tours to medieval castle of Móra d'Ebre

● The City Council of Móra d'Ebre is organising every day until 12 September guided visits to its medieval castle, situated in the high part of the town's old quarter and related to the barons of Entença. The origins of the castle go back to the 3rd century B.C. and coins and pottery pieces found on its foundations prove that the castle was inhabited during the Romans times. Its ruins show the numerous attacks suffered throughout the last millennium.

Miscellaneous

ARGENTONA

- **Main streets.** 54th Pottery and Earthenware Festival. From 10 am to 10 pm. August 4th to August 8th. Pottery exhibition by Yuhko Tanaka (Japan). Traditional earthenware shows. Lathe and rakú workshops. *54 Festa del Càntir*. August 4th. Traditional games with *càntirs*. *Càntir* lifting competition. Museu del Càntir. Plaça de l'Església, 9. Tel. 93 797 21 52. www.museucantir.org.

BARCELONA

- **CaixaForum.** Projection of *Paisajes electrónicos*, music and graphic image. At 10 and 11 pm. Av. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8.
- **CCCB.** *Gandules '04*. DJ sessions and film screenings. At 8 pm. Montalegre, 5.
- **CCCB.** Documentary screening *Not in our name*, by Brigitte Conrad. As part of *En guerra*. At 10 pm. Montalegre, 5.

CALELLA

- **Plaça Catalunya.** Calella Party, with live music. From 9:00 pm to 12:00 am.

GIRONA

- **Museu del Cinema.** Screening of a selection of the best “making off” documentaries. From 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

PALAMÓS

- **Museu de la Pesca.** *La ruta marítima Josep Pla*. Excursion on typical Catalan boat. Everyday until August 31st. At 10:30 am. For further information, call 972 60 04 24.

Exhibitions

AMPOSTA

- **Museu del Montsià.** Exhibition *Pintura i compromís (Painting and compromise)* by Niebla. Until August 22nd.

BARCELONA

- **Macba - Museu d'Art.** *Arte y utopía: la acción restringida*. Works by Picasso, Braque, Duchamp and Rauschenberg. Until September 12th. Tickets: 4-7 euros. Pl. Àngels, 1.
- **Altair.** Photograph exhibition *Sota les aigües de la Costa Brava* by Jordi Poch. Until August 30th. Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 616.
- **CaixaForum.** *Estarem segurs mentre tot es mogui* by Doug Aitken. Until September 26th. Av. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8.
- **CaixaForum.** *Absència pública*. by Javier Peñafiel. Until October 3rd. Av. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8.
- **Centre d'Art Santa Mònica.** *16 factures*, by M. Eichhom. Until Sept. 26th. Sta Mònica, 7.
- **Casa Àsia.** *Orienti Occidental l'Índia dels segles XX i XXI. Daniélou. Santiniketan. Tagore*. Until October 20th. Diagonal, 373.
- **CCCB.** *Pascal Comelade i la seva orquestra d'instruments de juguina*. 36 toy instruments. Until August 22nd. Montalegre, 5.
- **Centre Cultural Caixa Catalunya.** *El Cos i el cosmos. Art escultòric del Mèxic precolombí*. Until October 10th. Provença 261-265.
- **Centre d'Art Centre Mònica.** *Apparent Phenomena*, by Joao Tabarra. Until September 26th. Rbla Santa Mònica, 7.

- **Centre d'Art Santa Mònica.** *Borrowed Scenery (enriched seminaturalistic enclosure)* by Florian Göttke. Until September 26th. Rambla Santa Mònica, 7.

- **Centre d'Art Santa Mònica.** *Mudo (amb drippings sonors de Vacca)* by Pep Duran. Until September 26th. Rbla. Santa Mònica, 7.

- **Col·legi d'Arquitectes.** Photograph exhibition *La primera mirada (The first look)*. Until September 15th. Plaça Nova, 5.

- **Espai Caja Madrid.** Exhibition *Cuando los cómics se llamaban tebeos*. Original works from the 50s and 60s. Until August 12th.

- **Fundació Joan Miró.** *Manifest groc. Dalí, Gasch, Montanya i l'antiart*. Until September 26th. Parc de Montjuïc. Tickets: 3,6 euros.

- **Galeria Maxalot.** Graphic design and video exhibition *Workfromthem*. Until August 14th. Palma de Sant Just, 9.

- **Institut Francès.** *Boyzone. Imatges del cos*, by Clarisse Hahn. Until September 22nd. Moià, 8.

- **La Capella.** *Quòrum* on Barcelona city configuration. Until September 26th. Hospital, 56.

- **MNAC.** *Festins, rituals, cerimònies*. Ancient bronze works from Shangai. Tickets: 4,20 euros. Until September 12th. Palau Nacional de Montjuïc.

- **Museu d'Arqueologia.** *D'Hèrcules a Superman*. Gods and heroes of the Greek and Roman mythology. The exhibition will be open until November 1st. Tickets: 2,40 euros. Pg. Santa Madrona 39-41.

CULTURAL CENTRES

BARCELONA

Articket. www.articketbcn.es

MACBA (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona). Plaça dels Àngels. Tel. 93 412 08 10. www.macba.es

CCCB. (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona). Montalegre 5. Tel. 93 306 41 00. www.cccb.es

Fundació Joan Miró. Parc de Montjuïc, s/n. Tel. 93 443 94 70. www.bcn.fimiro.es

Fundació Antoni Tàpies. Aragó 255. Tel. 934 870 315. www.fundaciotapies.org

Palau Robert (Catalan Information Centre) aims to provide all the information needed to enable residents and visitors alike to get to know Catalonia. Passeig de Gràcia, 107. Tel. 93 238 80 91. www.10.gencat.net/probert/angles

Gran Teatre del Liceu (Opera House). La Rambla, 51-59. Tel. 93 485 99 00. www.liceubarcelona.com

L'Auditori. Lepant, 150. Tel. 93 247 93 00. L'Auditori, opened in 1999, is the city's new cultural complex in Barcelona and one of the most popular musical venues in the country. www.auditori.org

Museu Picasso. Montcada, 15-23. Tel. 933196310. www.museupicasso.bcn.es

La Pedrera (Casa Milà). Provença, 261. Tel. 902 400 973.

Museu d'Història de Catalunya. Pl. de Pau Vila, 3 (Palau de Mar). Tel. 93 225 47 00 | 93 225 47 26 | 93 225 47 32. www.mhcat.net

Museu Egipci de Barcelona (Egyptian Museum). Valencia, 284. Tel. 93 488 01 88. www.fundclos.com

MNAC (Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya). Palau Nacional, Parc de Montjuïc. 93 622 03 76. www.mnac.es

Museu Marítim. Av. de les Drassanes s/n. Tel. 933 429 920. www.diba.es/mmaritim/english/index.htm

Teatre Nacional de Catalunya. Pl. de les Arts, 1. Tel. 933 06 57 06. Ticket sales: 902 33 22 11 or www.servicaixa.com

Caixaforum. Avda. Marquès de Comillas, 6-8. Tel. 93 476 86 00.

Sagrada família. www.sagrafamiliaria.org

Museu del Ferrocarril (Railway Museum). Pl. Eduard Maristany, Vilanova i la Geltrú. 93 815 84 91. www.ffe.es/vilanova

GIRONA

Museu del Cinema. C/Sèquia, 1, 17001 Girona. Tel. 972 412 777. www.museudelcinema.org

Museu del Call. C/Força, 8, 17004 Girona. Tel. 972 21 67 61. callgirona@ajgirona.org

Centre Cultural Caixa de Girona. C/Ciutadans, 19 17004 Girona Tel. 972 20 98 36. www.fundaciocaixadegirona.org/cultura

Museu Dalí. Opened in 1974, The Museu Dalí contains the broadest range of the artistic career of Salvador Dalí, from his earliest works and his creations within the Surrealist movement up to his last works. Tel. 972 677 500. www.salvador-dali.org

TARRAGONA

Museu Nacional Arqueològic de Tarragona. Plaça del Rei, 5 (Tarragona). Very important archaeological collection from Tarraco, the capital of Roman Spain. Tel. 977 23 62 09. www.mnat.es

CT BACK

WEATHER

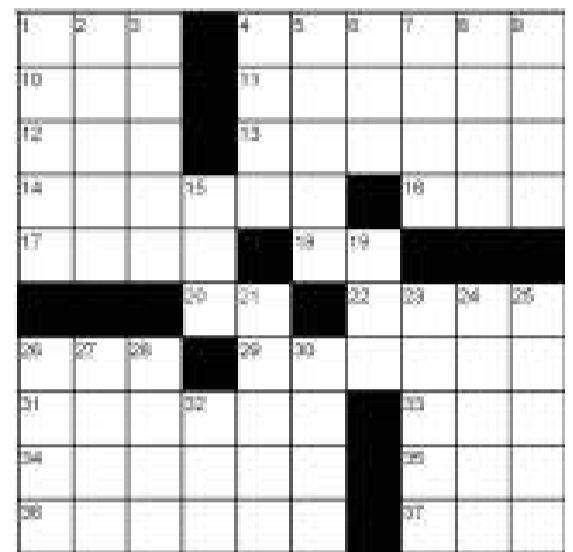
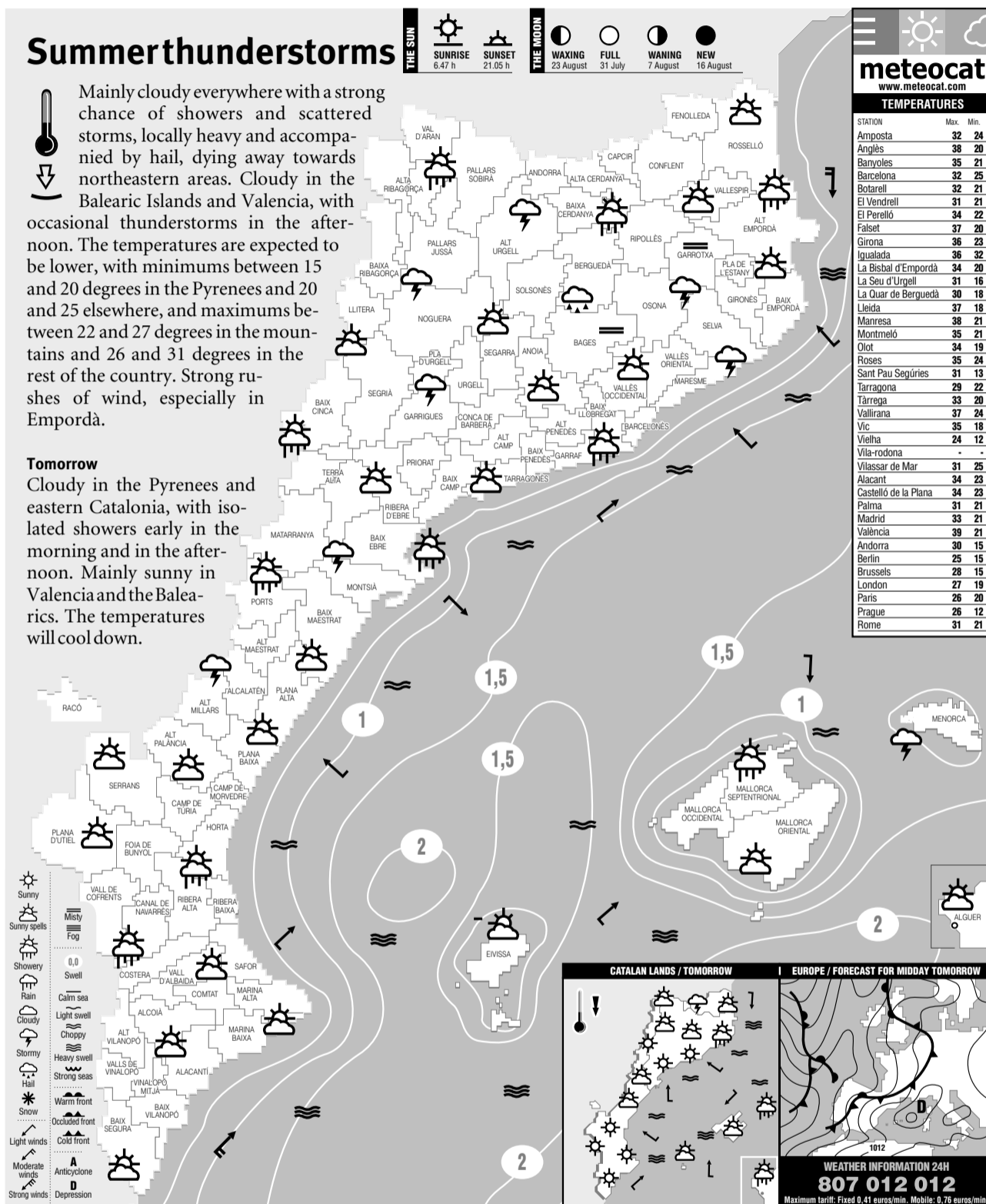
CROSSWORD

Summer thunderstorms

Mainly cloudy everywhere with a strong chance of showers and scattered storms, locally heavy and accompanied by hail, dying away towards northeastern areas. Cloudy in the Balearic Islands and Valencia, with occasional thunderstorms in the afternoon. The temperatures are expected to be lower, with minimums between 15 and 20 degrees in the Pyrenees and 20 and 25 elsewhere, and maximums between 22 and 27 degrees in the mountains and 26 and 31 degrees in the rest of the country. Strong rushes of wind, especially in Empordà.

Tomorrow

Cloudy in the Pyrenees and eastern Catalonia, with isolated showers early in the morning and in the afternoon. Mainly sunny in Valencia and the Balearics. The temperatures will cool down.



ACROSS

- Kids cereal brand.
- Grade.
- Wrath.
- School-room pointer.
- Rowing tool.
- Goes with or.
- Indian women.
- Lyric poem.
- Give a peck.
- Milligram.
- Letter afterward.
- Earns.
- Serving of corn.
- Snared.
- Scissor-like tool.
- Congressional vote.
- Steep.
- Pacific Standard Time.
- Sweet melon.
- Ball holder.

DOWN

- Magazine stand.
- Iranian's neighbour.
- African ground squirrel.
- Some (2 words).
- Tremor.
- Fast plane.
- Reverberate.
- Took to court.
- Wizened.
- Viper.
- African antelope.
- Clean thoroughly.
- Nile's home.
- Not those.
- Status.
- Great.
- ___ matter.
- Chest bores.
- Afloat.
- Time period.

ANSWERS

ACROSS

- Kix.
- Assess.
- Ire.
- Fescue.
- Oar.
- Either.
- Squaws.
- Ode.
- Kiss.
- Mg.
- PS.
- Nets.
- Ear.
- Caught.
- Pliers.
- Yea.
- Imbrue.
- PST.
- Casaba.
- Tee.

DOWN

- Kiosk.
- Iraqi.
- Xerus.
- A few.
- Seism.
- SST.
- Echo.
- Sued.
- Sere.
- Asp.
- Gnu.
- Scrub.
- Egypt.
- These.
- State.
- Epic.
- Alma.
- Ribs.
- Asea.
- Era.

54 Internacional Ceramic and Pottery Fair of Argentona

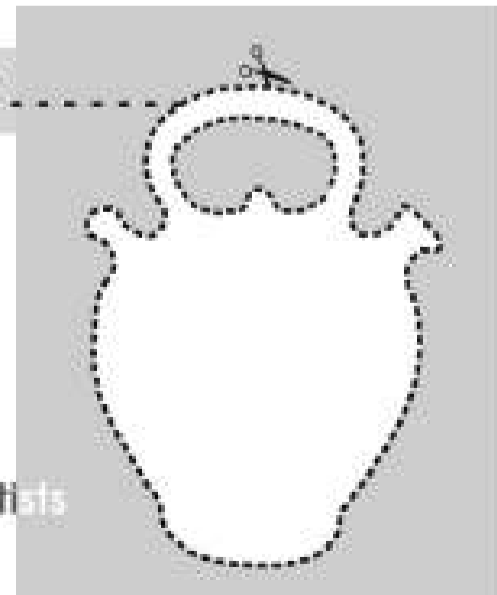


From 4th to 8th of August

The most important open-air ceramics market in Spain, an unrepeatable festive and popular culture experience!

Exhibitions, workshops, demonstrations, speeches, projections of documentaries, international artists

From 10.00 h. until 22.00 h., in the main streets of the village. Free admission and monitored parking area



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