



CATALONIA TODAY

BARCELONA, THE BUSINESS & LEISURE CAPITAL OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

N. 15 / FREE

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2004

EDITED IN BARCELONA



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Hitting the high note

Human towers and sea shanties brought from Cuba sung Costa Brava-style



Today is the high point of the annual Havaneres festival in Calafell de Palafrugell while the castellers season also gets under way in Valls and many other towns

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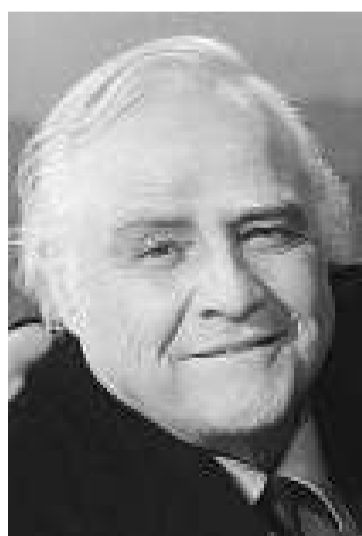
MICHAEL BUNN

Full Monty exposes police officer's double life as stripper

The Mossos d'Esquadra, the Catalan police force, are investigating allegations that one of their number has another life as a stripper. The police began looking into the matter when photographs of an officer taking off his uniform on a coach were sent to Tarragona police station.

Although they had to find the culprit in a force 8,000-strong, he was eventually tracked down to a

station on the Maresme. Investigators then proceeded to stake out the officer, hoping to catch him in the act but the Internal Affairs report said that, while it was true that he stripped off at hen nights and in bars, he preferred Mad Max and Batman costumes to his police uniform and therefore was not committing an offence. As yet no charges have been brought. (See page 3)



Brando: won two Oscars

Screen legend Marlon Brando dies a recluse aged 80

Marlon Brando, the legendary film actor, died yesterday in Los Angeles at the age of 80. Brando, whose moody good looks and method-style of acting won him early fame in Elia Kazan's *On the Waterfront*, went on to play one of cinema's most famous roles as Vito Corleone in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather*, for which he won his second Oscar for best actor. (See page 4)

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Lance Armstrong sets his sights on sixth Tour victory



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Iranians want peaceful reform not revolution says Shirin Ebadi

Famous human rights activist says East and West are not destined to clash

REBECCA WARDEN

The Iranian people are hungry for change, but are clear they do not wish it to be violent, according to Nobel Peace prize winner Shirin Ebadi. "People are desperately looking for another reform, which is peaceful and causes no bloodshed, not a revolution," said the Iranian human rights activist and lawyer in Barcelona yesterday. Ebadi is taking part closing ceremony of the *East-West Dialogue* at the Universal Forum of Cultures today.

Shirin Ebadi has always been a forceful advocate of free speech, and her comments at a press conference yesterday were no exception. "If freedom of expression is not respected in my country, there is no point in holding a dialogue," she said. Ebadi reminded reporters that 90 newspapers and magazines have been closed down in Iran during the last two years and countless journalists imprisoned.

Ebadi believes there are two things which must be done "if we wish to achieve a just globalisation." Custody of some of the natural resources of the planet should be given to the United Nations so that this organisation can "manage them and offer a real helping hand to the poorer nations." The other priority is the creation of an international military force, as Ebadi is convinced that only this way can we avoid more conflicts like the War in Iraq. However before progress towards these ideals is possible, the UN itself must be democratised. Ebadi believes it is unjust that only five countries - the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain - have the right to veto the proposals of all the others.



The 2003 Nobel Peace prize winner Shirin Ebadi is taking part in the East West dialogue at the Forum today

A moderate Muslim, Shirin Ebadi is no fan of Samuel Huntington's theory on the inevitability of the conflict of civilisations which gained so much currency in the days following the 9/11. "There is no conflict between East and West," she said, "the people and countries which spread these kind of ideas are the ones who benefit enormously from war. They sell arms and promote their industries, they seek solutions to all their economic problems through war and they have no sympathy for the people who get caught up in their wars," she said.

Ebadi is a great believer in finding a common language, and for her this is that of universal human rights.

Dalai Lama cancels visit to Forum's world religion event

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama will not participate in the Parliament of World Religions to be held at the Barcelona Forum from 7-13 July. Forum organisers said the Dalai Lama, considered to be the world's foremost authority on Buddhism, had to cancel his trip to Barcelona for health reasons.

He was scheduled to arrive on 4 July to participate in a gathering of religious leaders at Montserrat, three days before the inauguration of the

Forum event. Forum organisers said there would be a press conference to further clarify the circumstances behind such an important cancellation.

The Dalai Lama has been exiled in the Indian town of Dharamsala since 1959. In 1989 he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent political activities to help Tibetans achieve more autonomy. He frequently travels around the world to attend religious events and conferences. In October he is scheduled to travel to Mexico.

Prestigious project to boost Catalonia as a centre of innovation for high-tech products

RICHARD MCCRANN

Catalonia has been chosen by a prestigious IT company as a location for the setting-up of a "cluster" of firms that will develop and export information technology and products of telecommunications. The announcement by T-Systems, which is a division of the huge Deutsche Telekom group, is aimed at promoting Catalonia as the centre of innovation for producing information technology and communication. The initiative will also

aim to work with the public sector in the country. The Spanish director-general of T-Systems, Ginés Alarcón, said there are a hundred companies that are interested in the project, but at the moment they are in the process of setting it up legally.

The cluster of companies will revolve around four areas of education, electronic administration, software and health. But this initiative still does not have any investment forecast as it depends on the



Ginés Alarcón / ARCHIVE

projects that it generates, according to Alarcón. T-Systems that moved its headquarters from Madrid to Barcelona, was set up in Spain in 1998 after it won a contract to provide information services for the Generalitat, that accounts for half of its turnover. The contract will finish at the end of this year, and Alarcón is not sure how this will affect the company's business "we hope it won't be too dramatic," he said. The new headquarters will open next week in Barcelona.

TRAFFIC

British motorcyclist dies

An British citizen died yesterday in Barcelona following a motorcycle accident in Alp (Cerdanya). Michael Omar, 48, was admitted to the hospital with at Vall d'Hebron Hospital with serious internal injuries. The accident occurred around 6 p.m. on the N-152 highway near Alp. The deceased was riding a Kawasaki motorcycle with three other motorcyclists when his motorcycle left the roadway. He was admitted the Puigcerdà hospital with injuries that were not believed to be serious, but upon confirming the severity of his injuries he was transferred to Vall d'Hebron.

ECOLOGY

Divers clean up seabed

A group of divers from the *Club d'Immersió Biologia* (CIB) took it upon themselves to clean up rubbish accumulated at the bottom of the sea near Portbou. A car battery, plastic containers, shoes, cans and a cannon ball were among the objects they found. These activities are part of a project sponsored by the Biodiversity Foundation and Environmental Ministry.

FC BARCELONA

Club's website in Chinese

The website for the Barcelona Football Club (www.fcbarcelona) yesterday began to publish a version in Chinese. The website had previously been available in Catalan, Spanish, English and Japanese. The Chinese and Japanese versions are appearing just before the club's trip to three Asian countries (Japan, China, and South Korea). FC Barcelona will soon offer a version in a sixth language, Portuguese, to attract both Portuguese and Brazilian fans.

LEISURE

Role play games held

10,000 thousand players of role play and strategy games as well as collectors of cards and comics, are meeting in Barcelona this weekend for a Gen Con conference in the Palau Sant Jordi. The biggest attraction will be Dungeons & Dragons, the first role play game, which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary.

MUSEUMS

Dalí Museum open evenings

The Dalí Museum in Figueras will be open to visitors every evening during the months of July and September in addition to August, the only month when the museum had previously opened. A maximum of 500 visitors will be allowed to visit each evening. In celebration of the deceased artist's 100th birthday, there will also be a special audiovisual presentation about the surrealist painter and cava will be served. The museum, located in the centre of Figueras, was designed by Dalí himself and is thought to be the largest surrealist object in the world.

The season for human pillars

The traditional Catalan spectacle of building human towers called castells kick-off in Terrassa this weekend

NEIL STOKES

Building castells, or human towers, is a widespread passion in Catalonia and this weekend the season gets underway in Terrassa. Originating in the 18th Century in Valls in the Tarragona province, castell building is currently experiencing a golden age, with more than 60 colles, or groups, dedicated to this activity throughout Catalonia. On Saturday, as part of the town's annual summer festival, two groups of castellers, the local Minyons and the Capgrossos from Mataró, will battle it out to construct the first nine-level towers of the year.

As every year all over Catalonia, colles will be competing during the summer months to create the highest and most original human towers possible. The castells are categorised according to the number of people forming each layer and the number of layers. A 4/8 castell is, for example, a human tower made up of eight layers with four people per layer. At this weekend's event, the Minyons hope to complete the whole range of 3/8 castells as well as the 4/9.

"A key weekend," is how Jordi Caus, head of the Minyons, describes this beginning of the castell season. The Terrassa group, who are also celebrating their 25th anniversary, are one of the strongest contenders in Catalonia and have prepared an ambitious programme for the weekend. According to Caus, rehearsals have gone well, causing a spirit of optimism among his group: "Everyone looks up for it to me," he said.

As for the highly-considered Capgrossos of Mataró, they will attempt the first 3/9 castell of the season. "There are a few nerves but I think we've got a good chance," said head of the group, Xevi Castellví. The Sunday event will start at 12pm in the Raval de Montserrat.



Two groups of castellers will be battling to build the highest tower in Terrassa with the aim of reaching nine storeys / EFE

WHERE TO GO

Figueres

► Saturday at 6pm in carrer Sant Pau, the Colla Castellera de Figueres.

Sant Andreu de la Barca

► Saturday in Plaça de Anselm Clavé, the Castellers de Sant Andreu de la Barca, the Castellers de Sarrià and the Xerrics d'Olot.

Terrassa

► Saturday at 8 pm in Plaça Vella, the Minyons and the Castellers de Terrassa. Sunday at 12 noon in the Raval de Montserrat, the Minyons, the Castellers de Terrassa and the Capgrossos de Mataró.

Valls

► Saturday at 10:30 pm, the Colla Joves Xiquets de Valls at the local festival of the Santa Úrsula district.

Vilafranca del Penedès

► Saturday at 10pm in Plaça de la Verema, the Xicots de Vilafranca.

Barberà del Vallès

► Sunday at 6:30pm, the Castellers de Sabadell, the Castellers de la Vila de Gràcia and the Marrees de Salt.

L'Hospitalet de Llobregat

► Sunday at 12 noon in Plaça Ocellers, the Colla jove de l'Hospitalet de Llobregat, the Castellers de Sants and the Xicots de Vilafranca del Penedès.

(information provided by Joan Borràs)

The force feel the full monty of stripping cop

NEIL STOKES

Calling the police has just taken on a whole new meaning for the Catalan police force, the Mossos d'Esquadra. They are currently looking into the accusation that a Mosso policeman from the Maresme has been wearing his uniform, although not for long, as part of his nocturnal activities as a stripper.

It all started in February when six photos arrived anonymously at the Tarragona police station. The images showed a uniformed policeman removing his clothes at the back of a coach. But unlike in the Full Monty, the uniform did not appear to be a fake, thus instigating an investigation by the Internal Affairs department. The first and most delicate task was to pick the man out of

a force of more than 8000 officers.

While it is not clear how inspectors went about identifying the policeman, he was eventually discovered to be working at the Maresme police station. Investigators then went on to stake out the officer, secretly following and observing him as he plied his trade in hen nights, restaurants and bars. Whether to their relief or disappointment, the Internal Affairs department report that the officer did not use his uniform during this process, preferring to stick to Batman and Mad Max costumes. This has caused the Ministry of the Interior to cling to the hope that the photos may be false.

It has still not been decided whether the case will go to court or not. Other cases have already estab-

lished the rights of policeman to pursue "artistic activities" in their spare time. Even if it is difficult to define this policeman's activities as artistic, the only recourse open to the authorities may simply be a fine for an improper use of the uniform.

The officer is said to be 27 years old with a well shaped abdomen. Internal Affairs have concluded that the officer carried out his out-of-hours activities only sporadically. They said that the officer in question still has not been asked to testify before his superiors and neither does he know that the photographs have been seen by Internal Affairs. Some officers in the Mossos have expressed private annoyance over the incident claiming the officer's actions might discredit the police

force in the public eye. "The principle of authority and respect that the police force deserve could be undermined by actions such as this. I'm not saying it is bad to be a stripper but that the officer in question is a Mosso, but after his stript act, he has to wear the same uniform during his job and should be earning the respect and confidence of the citizen," said a Mosso.

Other officers are more forgiving about the incident and claim the Mosso did not insult the uniform of the police force. "One has to avoid passing judgement using an established moral criteria saying that taking off one's clothes is bad," said another police source. The final decision has yet to be taken on what course of action to take.

Bongo players wrecking tranquility of park residents

Angry residents are fed up with bongo drummers disturbing the peace of their neighbourhood in the centre of Barcelona. About 300 residents living next to the Ciutadella park want the city council to clamp down on the excess noise caused by loud instruments, particularly bongos, coming from the park. Protesters are furious that the city council gave bongo players the green light to use the park last month. Protestors have met with leaders of opposition groups from the city council and are demanding a curb on the activities of the musicians in the park.

Zapatero looks sure to continue as leader of Spain's socialist party

The 36th Congress of the socialist party is seeking to adopt policies in a bid regenerate democracy

RICHARD MCCRANN

Delegates from Spain's socialist party (PSOE) look set to confirm José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero as their leader. The 972 delegates attending the party's Congress, are expected to vote in favour of keeping Zapatero, who is also the current Spanish prime minister, as their secretary general for the next four years. The party is currently holding its 36th Congress in Madrid, and delegates heard from the president of the PSOE, Manuel Chaves, who said: "socialists have a new opportunity" as in 1982 to undertake a new process of transformation and put in place democratic regeneration." He praised the role of Zapatero for helping them win the election on 14 March saying "his convictions and his talent" helped them to victory.

The secretary of the PSOE, José Blanco, highlighted the fact the PSOE was 125 years old, but they had to work for the future and for the citizens of Spain. He said that since the year 2000, when they elected Zapatero as their leader for the first time, it signalled "a change" and



Zapatero and his wife, Sonsoles Espinosa, at the congress / EFE

the socialists had reached an understanding with the majority of the people.

He stated that during the past four years the party had gained the backing of the socialists leaders, their loyalty and the generous cooperation of all of them so that in future they would achieve good results. He added that the election victory, far from leaving the socialists in a state of disbelief, it had revived them and they would continue the project of creating a new society to overcome new problems for the citizens of Spain. He confirmed that during the three day meeting, delegates would debate the history of the party, its political strategy and it will vote on policies that will direct the party over the next four years.

It is widely expected that the PSOE meeting will elect a new executive for the party, that will have the same number of women as well as men. Zapatero has also proposed to reduce the number of regional secretaries, from the current seven to be pared down to two. José Bono, the defense minister, claims he is more content compared to four years ago.

Screen legend Marlon Brando dies aged 80 after illness

Film legend Marlon Brando has died aged 80. He is famous for his roles in the films *On the Waterfront* and *The Godfather*. Brando, who had been ill for some time, was regarded as a pivotal actor of the post-war generation. He made his name in the classic 1953 film *The Wild One* and went on to make 40 films. He is best remembered for his role as the mafia leader Don Corleone in the 1972 hit *The Godfather*. Brando made his 1950 screen debut in *The Men*, a role for which he is reported to have prepared himself for by lying in bed for a month, to play the part of paraplegic.

A year later he was nominated for an oscar for best actor for his role as Stanley Kowalski in the screen version of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, also starring Vivien Leigh. But he won his first oscar in 1954, for his part as washed-up boxer Terry Malloy in the film *On the Waterfront*. though many believe he should have won a second nomination for his misunderstood role as a rebel in *The Wild One*. He earned his second oscar for his awe inspiring role as Don Corleone, in *The Godfather*, a film directed by Francis Ford Coppola in 1972. Following his contro-



Marlon Brando in his prime / EFE

versial role in the *Last Tango in Paris*, which showed some graphic sex scenes, Brando opted out of a leading man role, playing cameo roles for huge paypackets. His small role in *Apocalypse Now*, which saw him team up again with director Francis Ford Coppola, in the early 80's. He allegedly was paid millions of dollars for a small screen appearance during the film.

British soldier to stand trial over Iraq shooting when boy injured last year during incident

AGENCIES

A British soldier is to go before a court over the shooting of a boy in Iraq, the attorney general has confirmed. Private Alexander Johnston has been charged with unlawful wounding. It follows an incident in southern Iraq, in September last year. Private Johnston, of the 1st Battalion, faces an alternative charge of negligent handling of a weapon.

"The Army Prosecuting Authority directed that Private Johnston of

the 1st Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers should stand trial for one offence of unlawful wounding. The matter relates to a non fatal shooting of an Iraqi boy," said the Attorney General's statement. If he is found guilty he could face a prison sentence in a civilian prison or detention in a military corrective training centre. The British army is currently holding several internal investigations into allegations of misconduct by British troops, and four soldiers face court martials.

Jordan offers to send troops to Iraq to help boost stability in the country for the new government

AGENCIES

Jordan has offered to send troops to Iraq in a bid to help the stabilise the country. The new Iraqi government is considering the offer but the deputy foreign minister said his government is expected to reject it. He told the BBC that the interim prime minister, Iyad Allawi, had instead, requested troops from Egypt, Bahrain and Oman. King Abdullah told the BBC, "If the Iraqis ask us for help directly it will be very difficult

for us to say no. If they fail, then we will pay the price." He is the first Arab leader to consider sending troops to Iraq and the move is likely to satisfy the United States. "To have fellow Arabs patrolling I'm sure would be welcome," an US official told Reuters news agency. The feeling in Iraq is for less foreign troops but, but the majority of people would find Arab forces easier to accept than the current coalition made up mainly US troops.

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli army kills two in Gaza

Two Palestinians were killed in Gaza yesterday by Israeli gunfire, one in Rafah refugee camp at the end of a raid to uncover weapons smuggling tunnels and the other near a Jewish settlement, witnesses and medics said. Yassir al-Arja, 25, identified by residents as Rafah's Brazil neighbourhood as a scrap dealer, was shot dead while picking through rubble during the Israeli operation near the border with Egypt.

TERROR

Threat of Qaeda-linked attacks

Muslim militants claiming links to al Qaeda vowed new attacks on Europe once a "truce" offered by Osama bin Laden expires in two weeks, newspapers said yesterday. Governments and analysts played down the threat, noting the group in question had made unfounded claims before; French president Jacques Chirac said he took any such report seriously but that little could be done to improve already tight security.

AFGHANISTAN

Polls could be mid-October

Elections in Afghanistan scheduled for September could be held by mid-October at the latest, a government official said yesterday, as more people were reported killed in attacks by militants determined to disrupt the vote. President Hamid Karzai called repeatedly during recent international visits for the elections to be held in September. But in pronouncements in local Dari and Pashto languages, he mentioned holding them in Mizan, a month of the Afghan calendar running from September 22 to October 21.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Palestinians kill collaborator

Palestinian militants publicly executed an accused collaborator with Israel with machineguns in a West Bank town square yesterday after a throng of Palestinian onlookers called for him to die. Wild celebrations broke out among the hundreds of spectators after four gunmen from the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of president Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, shot father-of-two Muhammad Rafiz Daragh-meh, 45, in Qabatiya.

SUDAN

Rebel groups shun peace talks

Rebel groups from Sudan's troubled Darfur region will not attend peace talks in Chad, because they accuse the government of violating a ceasefire. The Sudan Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement are refusing to go to the talks in the Chadian capital N'Djamena, which are taking place after the Sudanese government told the United States it would speed up negotiations to end the the fighting.

PHILIPPINES

Typhoon toll rises to 23

The death toll from the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year rose to 23 yesterday, as rescue workers rushed to clear landslides and send food and medicine there.

PLATFORM

FERRAN CABRERO

The fruits of another forum

Just a few days ago, thousands of miles away in the city of New York, the third edition of one of the most broad forums in the world took place. A forum which gives pride of place to one of the most culturally diverse groups of people, with one of the most sustainable and peaceloving lifestyles on the planet. I am referring to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Questions of the United Nations which, since it was set up in 2002, has become a date not to be missed for thousands of people, and which I attended as a representative of the Unesco Centre of Catalonia.

The Permanent Forum is politically important because it can pass on its recommendations directly to the Social and Economic Council, which means that they are just a stone's throw away from the General Assembly, where the heads of state of the member states of the United Nations debate. The persistence the indigenous movement has shown over the years has made possible what Deskaheh, the optimistic indigenous leader and spokesman of the Iroqui Confederation, tried in vain to achieve in 1923 at the League of Nations; a voice for indigenous peoples in the UN.

Today I will not talk about the parallels between indigenous peoples and stateless nations, but rather about the changes the indigenous movement has brought about in international aid policy and how these changes will benefit not only for indigenous people but all of us who live on this fragile planet. During



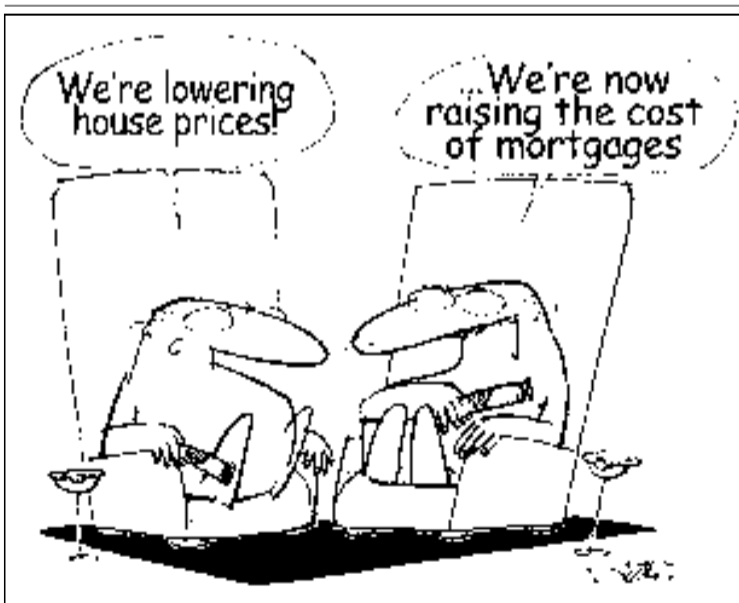
the forum, a long-awaited study on "prior consent which is informed and freely-given" was presented. This has been one of the most important political struggles of the indigenous movement. It is significant because these words hide a principle which is very simple but of vital importance if we are to attain "a world where there is room for several worlds." This is a principle which has hardly ever been respected by international develop-

ment policy and that is to consult and take on-board the opinions of the very people these policies are designed to help. During the glory days of development in the 1960s, when people set up grandiose projects in the so-called Third World, such as building dams, changing the course of rivers or building roads across fragile eco-systems, we all believed without question that development was a good thing. Anyone who opposed it was ob-

viously either ignorant or selfish. Thus many traditional communities found themselves unable to defend themselves against one of the worse defects of Western-style representative democracy; that is, the lack of respect for the opinions of the minority. With consultation with the communities most affected, with scant information on the consequences of a given project, and with no possibility of saying "we do not want that." Often with the best intentions in the world, many of the policies on regional development were carried out this way. These actions however produced very negative results for some of the traditional communities such as indigenous peoples; social disintegration, prostitution, suicides... Today the long term consequences of these policies are not only well-known, but are beginning to loom large for the whole of the planet: the pollution of rivers, seas and oceans, global warming, climate change.

And when we need alternative visions for social change, examples of other more sustainable, peaceful ways of living, these are hard to find. Genocide, be it in the name of progress or in the name of democracy, all comes down to the same thing: the physical disappearance of whole communities. For this reason, any progress in establishing the notion of "prior consent which is informed and freely-given" in the world has got to be good news. In order to survive while we desperately search for useful alternative models, and above all, for the ethical stance it shows, respect for the other with a capital R.

THE STING BY JAP



VIEWPOINT

MANUEL CASTAÑO

Gibraltar forever

Gibraltar has been British for the last 300 years, and Spanish newspapers are still reluctant to discuss international plans for this mighty rock. There seems to be no remedy for the problem - there are some psychological complexes that are simply immune to regime changes, not to mention the mere variations in character that a new government implies. All the political factions have united to stir up the same expectations - or rather to cultivate the same frustration amongst a people

who are over-inclined to believe in historical fatalism. Now that a member of the British royal family has visited Gibraltar to celebrate its anniversary, the Madrid government and their hangers-on in the media have fallen back on making phlegmatic demands, which has lapsed into occasional rudeness. The idea that Gibraltar's sovereignty must be negotiated clashes harshly with the stubborn fact that the United Kingdom has no intention of giving away anything for free. At the same time, the inhabitants of Gi-

braltar have no intention of losing their British citizenship, while the idea of becoming Spanish citizens is simply not an option for them. As it seems hardly likely that this government, which has just brought its troops back from Iraq is going to re-deploy them to occupy the rock of Gibraltar, making so much noise seems quite pointless. If they truly want to create European sovereignty, shouldn't they just forget about grudges born of ancient confrontations? Because otherwise the whole European dream seems rather false.



CATALONIA TODAY

Published by Catalonia Today SL. Tàpies, 2. Barcelona 08001. Tel +34 932 276 620 / Fax +34 932 276 621. email: contact@cataloniatoday.info.

Diposit Number GI-322-2004

ADVERTISING: +34 932 276 620. advertising@cataloniatoday.info SUBSCRIPTION: +34 932 276 620. subscription@cataloniatoday.info
 Managing Editor: Carles Puigdemont. Editor: Stephen Burgen. Sub Editor: Rebecca Warden. Editorial Staff: Alex Leff, Richard McCrann, Robert Kimpleton, Marcela Topor. Editorial Consultant: Miquel Berga. Printed by IMPRINTSA

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Havaneres were brought back to Catalonia by people returning from Cuba over one hundred years ago

Calella de Palafrugell celebrates its last night of the Havaneres festival

Havaneres is a unique musical form sung by 19th century sailors

ALEXLEFF

Imagine the quantity of cultural fusions that occurred throughout the centuries of Iberian colonisation in the Americas. The words themselves — *Havaneres* and *rom cremat* — say it all. Havaneres are sea shanties that were brought back from Cuba by sailors in the 19th century to the Catalan seashores. Accompanied by guitar, accordion and sometimes bass, these songs are embedded with verses about lost love or long lost ancestors. From 28 June to 3 July, the town of Calella de Palafrugell has been celebrating its Havaneres Festival, a tribute to the limericks sung by the sailors of yester year along with a toast of their drink, the rum that nursed their sorrows.

Havaneres concerts are staged throughout the summer, but the captain of them all is the *Cantada* (Singing) *d'Havaneres* Festival held

late June, early July of every year in Calella de Palafrugell, one of the very sight where this distinctive Euro-Cuban cultural immersion took place. The songs are usually listened to while sipping *rom cremat*, rum flambeed with coffee beans in terra cotta dishes. Quite a sight, if you consider the historical relevance. A Catalan nobleman by the name of Bacardi once travelled to far away Cuba to refine such a sugar cane spirit.

What is known today as Havaneres are the result of a long and complex series of historic events. It seems that they originated in Cuba in the 19th century. Their roots can be found a little earlier, when the rhythm of a European dance known as *contradanza* (said to be from a 16th century country dance) leapt upon the island. Cuban musicians wove this European dance into its

own African-rooted rhythms. This cross-atlantic musical cocktail was then shipped off to Spain, and you can catch wiffs of it in Spanish Zarzuelas. *La Verbena de la Paloma* and *Don Gil de Alcalá* are two well-known Zarzuelas that contain Havaneres. European classical music also includes these sea shanties in its vast repertoire, ranging from the works of the French Ravel and Debussy to the Spanish Albeniz and Falla. In Catalonia there has always been a tradition of forming musical groups to sing the woeful sea songs.

In cozy Calella de Palafrugell on the Costa Brava, tonight the festival is finishing off with its biggest night. It starts at 8:00 p.m. on Paseig del Canadell with a group called Els Cremats i el Taper. Then at Port Bo Square at 10:30 p.m., an ensemble of bands with more quirky names like Peix Fregit are performing.

Lambda gay and lesbian film festival to honour Pons and Balletbó-Coll

ALEXLEFF

The Casal Lambda has put together its latest collection of top films for its 9th International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The event focuses on the issues of identity faced by member community, always going beyond the purely sexual. Catalan film directors Ventura Pons and Marta Balletbó-Coll will be honoured with the Lambda award for their portrayal of the realities lived by homosexuals in their films. The festival kicked off yesterday with the film

Latter Days, starring Jacqueline Bisset. And tonight at 10:30 p.m., *Merci Docteur Rey* should not be missed. It is about a sexually undecided young person who soon gets tied up in a mysterious crime. The film stars 70s sex bomb Jane Birkin, along with Dianne West and Jerry Hall.

Casal Lambda was founded in 1976 as a non-profit organisation to spearhead the fight for gay and lesbian rights around Spain. Their number one goal is "the normalisation of homosexuality in society," as

the mission statement reads. In their film festival they emphasise the importance of being yourself and the need to celebrate differences.

"Being human, you will always be different from one another," the festival's director Jaume Gil i Llopert writes. "We can have differences in political beliefs, in the way we dress. Our sexuality is only another difference," he adds. Apart from Casal Lambda, films will be shown in CCCB, Casa Asia, FNAC and PubliFilm until 8 July.

New releases ▶

"WORLD IN LOVE WITH BARCELONA"

VARIOUS
Label: EMI
Genre: *World music*
Playing time: 70'56"

The spirit of the Barcelona International Fòrum 2004 on record. Presented as a result of the world's love affair with Barcelona, this compilation brings together some of the most important musical styles and traditions from around the world. Brazilian Caetano Veloso, Tribalistas and Marisa Ruben shoulders with the likes of Neneh Cherry and Youssou N'Dour, Lila Downs, Estrella Morente, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and Papa Wemba among other artists of the World Music scene.



"SUPERGRASS IS 10. THE BEST OF 94-04"

SUPERGRASS
Label: EMI
Genre: *Pop-rock*
Playing time: 71'26"

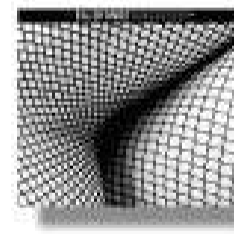
After Blur and Oasis one of the most genuine and popular of Britpop bands, Supergrass are celebrating their 10th anniversary with a double DVD and this CD bringing together 21 songs, including two completely new ones. Present here are the jewels in Supergrass' crown, namely, the singles. But along with their hits we also come across some of the most intense tracks taken from their four albums. Perhaps unexpectedly there are seven tracks from their debut album here, the classic *I Should Coco*.



"BAJOFONDO TANGO CLUB"

VARIOUS
Label: Universal
Genre: *Post-tango*
Playing time: 78'28"

"For the two countries separated by the River Plate, Argentina and Uruguay, these are difficult times, times of electricity and tango," writes Enrique Lopetegui about this exceptional record. Bajofondo Tango Club can only be described as an alliance of producers, musicians and singers, all directed by the Argentinian Gustavo Santaolalla and the Uruguayan Juan Campodónico. These two South American talents reinterpret tango from an electronic and techno perspective producing surprising and completely unique results.



"BOSSANOVANDO"

DAMILLS
Label: Subterfuge
Genre: *Bossa nova*
Playing time: 42'05"

As part of their collection *Música para un guateque sideral*, Subterfuge have released the first musical work of the Barcelona artist, David Amills. This is a curious experiment that manages to bring to the world of bossa nova new songs by artists such as Nirvana, The Style Council, The Beatles, Portishead, The Rolling Stones and David Bowie to mention but a few. These interpretations are done with a great sense of respect for the originals and an excellent sense of taste. It may seem like a joke, but nothing could be further from the truth.



Wine on the brain in the Poble Espanyol

Memoria de Vino opened last night as part of the Grec festival and continues until July 31

MICHAEL BUNN

"It's not an orgy, it's a wine carnival, or a fiesta" says director Enrique Vargas about his theatre experience *Memoria de Vino* (Memory of wine), which opened last night at Barcelona's Poble Espanyol as part of the Forum-Grec festival. "However, I should warn people," he adds, "that they should leave their children at home". This event - which features Vargas' group *Teatro de los Sentidos* (Theatre of the senses) - is a show which is the last in his trilogy, following *El hilo de Ariadna* (Ariadne's thread) and *Oráculos* (Oracles). The former was one of the great hits of last year's Grec festival, thanks to spontaneous word-of-mouth publicity. While the first part of the trilogy tells the history of a grain of wheat, *Memory of wine* offers spectators - and quite literally a chance to immerse themselves in wine, and focuses on the audience's "curiosity" and, paradoxically their ability to lose themselves in something which, at first, they might not understand. The show will give members of the audience the chance

to tread grapes, make wine juice, ferment it and then drink it, though Vargas adds that there is more than enough space at the venue both for more outgoing members of the public who want to join in the fun and for those who prefer to look on as spectators.

"The only way to find something in life is by losing yourself", Vargas says, and to maximise the audiences' surprise he refused to reveal any details about the show, preferring to focus on the spirit of the work. Though Vargas does not only consider Dionysus to be "the god of wine, he is also the god of otherness, of the condition of being another person". And that is one of the themes of the production, the idea that "we should release the "other" that we carry within us, and accept the resulting paradox". Another theme is death, which Vargas insists we should lose our fear of, "like the Mexicans, who believe we should be very alive at the point when we reach death". The show - which no doubt needs to be seen to be believed, let alone understood - goes till 31 July.



A scene from the show *Memoria de Vino* directed by Enrique Vargas and performed by *Teatro de los Sentidos*

Conca de Barberà: from monastery to modernisme

JORDI URPI

Today we will be taking a look at an area where vines were first grown over 800 years ago: Conca de Barberà. This region roughly coincides in terms of its area with the eponymous *Denominació d'Origen* which covers the wines grown here. The land is physically limited by the erosion of the river *Francolí* basin, which 1,000 years ago formed a natural frontier between Christian and Muslim lands.

The monastery of Santa Maria de Poblet was founded in 1150 by monks from the Cistercian order, who were the first to grow vines here. The area reached its zenith in the 14th century, after which it fell into decline until the 18th century, when the Spanish Crown abolished the prohibition against the Crown of Aragon using this land, in order to encourage trade with America. The first state co-operative winery was founded in Bar-

berà de la Conca, and it promptly built the modernist wine cellars of Pira, Montblanc, Rocafort de Queralt, Barberà de la Conca and *l'Espluga de Francolí*. These "wine cathedrals", as they became known, were the work of architects such as Cèsar Martinell (a disciple of Gaudí), and Pere Domènech, whose father designed the *Palau de la Música Catalana*.

Espluga de Francolí is where you will find the *Rendé Masdeu* family winery. The *Rendé* family decided to begin producing quality wines in 1989, using two fields where they planted Cabernet sauvignon. They used international grape varieties because they believed the region had the perfect soil and climatic characteristics for such grapes. Thus they planted Merlot and also Syrah. Although they are using very young plants, they have succeeded in producing an excellent, very personal red using the Syrah variety called *l'Ar-*

nau. This monovarietal wine joins the other four which are already on the market, produced from Cabernet sauvignon and Merlot.

Close by *l'Espluga de Francolí* lies the walled town of Montblanc. On the outskirts lies *Mas Foraster*, a family winery. In 1995 they decided to change from their traditional harvest producing base white wines for cava and planted Cabernet sauvignon and *Tempranillo*, and two years later they build the wine producing cellar in an old farm building at *Mas Foraster*. In 1998 they produced 9,000 bottles of young red and 10,000 for ageing, which came on to the markets in 1999 and 2000, respectively. They set aside the best part of the harvest to produce 2,982 bottles of *Negre Selecció*, a red which is the winery's star product.

*Jordi Urpi is the chef and co-owner of the hotel-restaurant *Hostal de Castell de Gimanelles* (Baix Penès). info@gimanelles.com*

Gazpacho and vichyssoise are the very definition of cool

The poets might say that the colours of gazpacho and vichyssoise embody the different temperaments of the countries that have given us these marvellous cold soups. They are the two most popular and most refreshing cold summer soups, and they also both derive from humble historical origins. Generically speaking, gazpacho is an Andalusian dish, in spite of the fact that there are some equally delicious soups in La Mancha and Extremadura, though they are completely different.

Vichyssoise as we know it today was created at the Ritz hotel in New York by a French chef called Louis Diat, who used an old recipe of his mother's that he recalled from his childhood in Vichy. These two soups arrived in our country by different routes - restaurants and Andalusian immigration. The *gazpacho andalus*, as it was then called, originally appeared in Catalonia 50 years ago as a

essential item in the great restaurants' summer tourist menus, together with the ineffable prawn cocktail. However, gazpacho did not become common in Catalan households until the 1980s. Meanwhile, vichyssoise was completely unknown here until television programs began to show recipes for cold cream soups. Though vichyssoise is a blend comprised of heavy notes (including potatoes, leeks, lard, cream and milk), the end product is mild, whether eaten cold in summer or hot in winter. And though everyone knows that gazpacho tends to be a very personal, improvised mixture of garlic, bread, oil, salt, vinegar, water and any vegetables that you feel like adding, nowadays tomato has clearly come to be one of the essential ingredients. Strictly speaking, gazpacho and vichyssoise are two basic recipes which can be adapted as you wish. It is all a question of imagination and personal taste.

Spanish unemployment drops but Catalonia sees rise in June

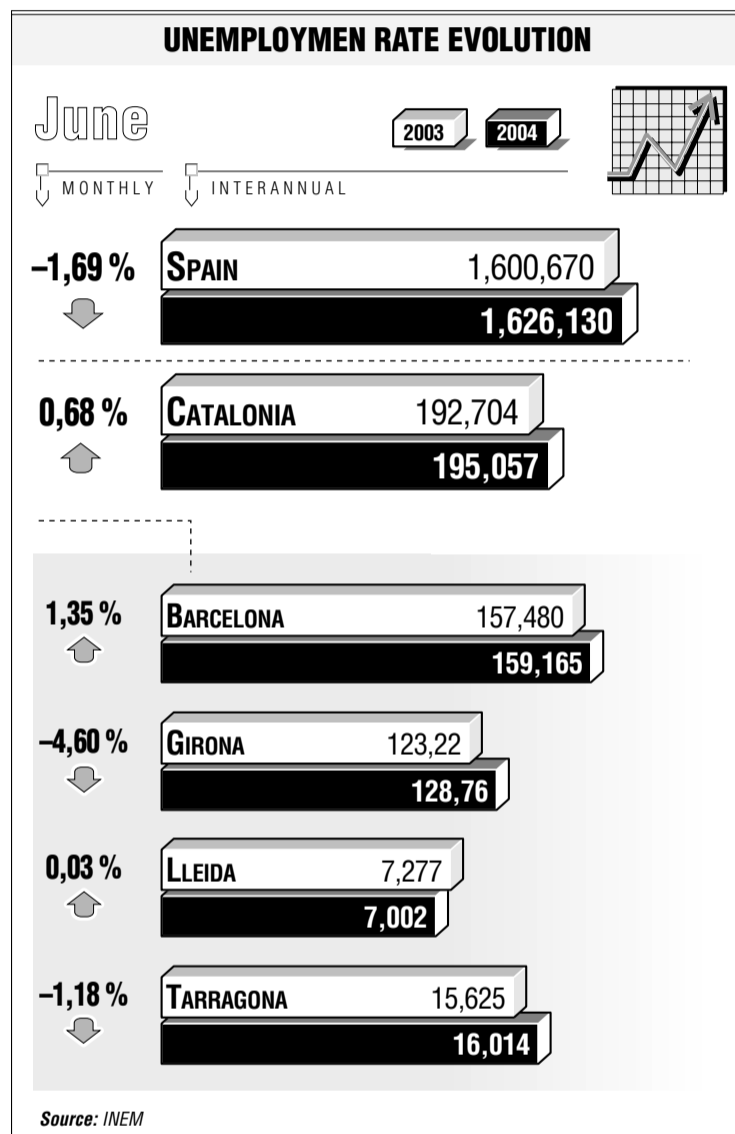
Overall unemployment rate went down for the fifth consecutive month

ALEX LEFF

Unemployment in Spain went down in June by just over 28,000 people (nearly 1.7 per cent), setting it at 1,626,134 unemployed, the Ministry of Labour reports. However, the rate went up in three autonomous communities in the state. Catalonia was one of them. The number of unemployed Catalans increased by 1,315 people in June, nearly 0.7 per cent more than the month before. The current unemployment rate for Catalonia is 6.14 per cent, according to the Ministry of Labour.

Looking at the registries kept by INEM, the National Spanish Employment Agency, June was the fifth consecutive month to see a fall in the unemployment rate in Spain. While the number of unemployed has declined in the six first months of the year by over 85,300 people, the same number has seen a general increase of nearly 25,500 people in the last twelve months. The number of Spanish citizens with jobs counted by INEM was 1,391,623 people, the highest registry for June in recent history. Unemployment decreased in fourteen autonomous communities last month, with the most notable declines in Madrid (5,400 less), Castilla y León (4,718) and Galicia (3,384).

Catalans were not so fortunate. The number rose last month in three territories, led by Catalonia (1,315 more unemployed). However, unemployment went down in certain Catalan provinces, namely Girona (down by 4.6 per cent) and Tarragona (-1.18 per cent). Barcelona's jobless grew by 1.35 per cent and Lleida's by 0.03 per cent. Com-



pared to June 2003, Catalan unemployment has grown by 2,353 people, that's an increase of 1.22 per cent. In the past three years the rate for June fluctuated in the following

way: In 2001, it went up by 0.7 per cent; in 2002, it dropped by 0.27 and in 2003 it had risen by 0.19 per cent. In terms of gender, the public employment agency found that the

number of unemployed males in Catalonia last month was 81,870. This means that 1,353 (-1.63) men have gone off the unemployment list since May. Results for females showed a different trend. There were 113,187 jobless females, up by 2.667 per cent from the month before. However, both groups found less work throughout the year compared to the year before. Since June 2003, 807 more males were registered as unemployed with the INEM, whereas 1,546 females had no work. The unemployment rate for young people in Catalonia, defined as under, went down by 235 people (1 per cent less), compared to the rest of Spain, where the number increased.

As far as Spanish labour sectors are concerned, the rate declined in services (15,930 people), industry (7,619) and in construction (7,497). Unemployment rose in agriculture by 262 people.

In terms of hirings, the INEM reports 1,391,623 new filled job posts in June. That's 192,403 more than this time last year. Permanent work contracts, at 117,330, were the highest recorded. Over 87,000 of those were full-time (12,890 more than the last year) and more than 30,000 were part-time (5,000 more).

The number of foreigners now covered under Spanish Social Security has reached 1,072,439 workers. Around 814,000 of those come from non-EU member countries, while nearly 260,000 were community members, according to the Spanish employment agency. Overall, there was a total of 41,614 new members listed in Social Security, while 200,270 went off.

HOUSING

Territories should manage plan

Catalonia urges that the changes to the housing plan that Spanish government is currently preparing be administered by each autonomous government according to its aims. The territory would like to know exactly how much money it will be allocated for these changes. The Catalan government hopes that the subsidies to be awarded to homeowners — up to 6,000 euros as an incentive to rent out flats — will not eat away at the public helps destined to other areas, such as construction of flats to sell.

TOURISM

Andorran bath share goes up

The baths in Caldea, a tourist hot spot in Andorra, have made profit gains of 23 per cent since the last financial year, according to its management firm *La Societat Semtee*. This means that shareholders will gain dividends of 42 euros per share.

FIRA BARCELONA

Hospitalet gets trade fair

The construction of the annex of the Fira de Barcelona in l'Hospitalet de Llobregat will be finished by 2007, sources in the expo centre's administration said yesterday. They are currently working on finishing pavilions 3 and 4, and have already begun to lay the cement for number 5. By the end of this year, construction will begin on pavilion 0.

LABOUR

CCOO criticises seasonal work

The CCOO labour union said that Catalonia's high unemployment is due to an excessive dependence on seasonal labour and a high percentage of temporary employment contracts. The number of unemployed people in June has gone down in Spain by 28,000, while in Catalonia there are 1,314 more unemployed. The CCOO said that the government should adopt measures to modify the structural elements of the economy to alleviate these problems.

Index of Industrial Production up, energy generation rises by 7.5%

ROBERT KIMPLETON

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was 2.9% higher in May than it was during the same month last year, according to figures released by the National Statistics Institute of Spain (INE). The production of goods and services also increased by 0.3% for the same time periods.

The variation rate for durable goods went up by 3.1%, while for non-durable goods it went down by 0.3%. Likewise, energy produc-

tion went up 7.5% and the production of equipment goods grew by 3.4%, while intermediate goods production went up 3.1%.

With all of the variations factored in, the average IIP figure was 2% higher from January to the end of May compared with the same period in 2003. Equipment goods showed an average increase in industrial production of 1.6%, while the industrial production of intermediate goods went up 2.1% and that for energy went up 6.5%.

The business activities that showed the highest average increases during the period from January to May were the manufacture of machinery and electrical material, which went up 10.1%, and metalurgy, which increased by 8%. Those areas which showed negative growth for the January-May period were manufacture of office machines and computer equipment, which fell by 37%, and the tobacco industry, which fell by 16.2%.

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PHARMACEUTICAL

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Generic Aids drugs are just as effective as more expensive brand-name drugs. Generic drugs have the same active ingredient as brand-name drugs, but are sold under the generic chemical name instead of the brand name. A recent six-month study on 60 Aids patients in Africa showed that the generic drugs were both effective and safe. "Although controlled trials including more patients and longer trial periods will be important, our results lend support to the use and funding of generic fixed-dose combinations as first-line treatment in developing countries," wrote Eric Delaporte, one of the researchers, in *The Lancet* medical journal. There have been controversies over developing countries wanting to use generic drugs based on drugs patented by pharmaceutical companies in developed countries. A spokesman for one Aids advocacy group said that business interests and not medical considerations were behind the doubts that generic drugs were safe and effective.

TRANSPORT

Eurostar business up

Eurostar has reported a 19% increase in passenger volume after it opened one of the first sections of a high-speed rail link in the UK. Revenue from January to June was up by 16%, which is good news for an industry that has faced stiff competition from the low-cost airline business.

THE WEEK IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE

All eyes on Fed as interest hike announced

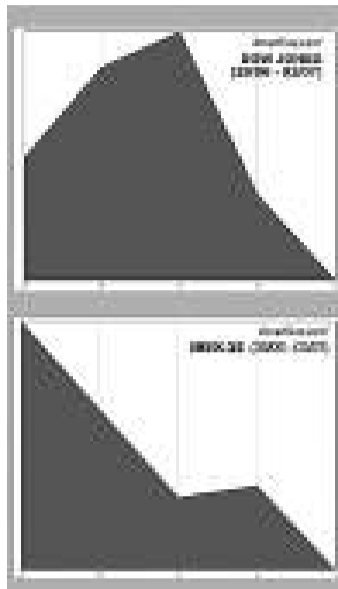
DANIEL MATEOS VÁZQUEZ
Investment Centre of Deutsche Bank

All eyes were on the Federal Reserve this week as it began a cycle of interest rate increases that are likely to continue for some time to come. The Fed raised the target rate for federal funds by a quarter of a point during a meeting on Wednesday to 1.25%. (The federal funds rate represents the interest rate that banks can charge each other for overnight loans. It is the Federal Reserve's main tool for attempting to influence the economy.)

This move brings to an end a three-year period of continual decreases. Our forecast calls for another three-quarter increase before the end of 2004, and a full 2% increase during 2005. In Europe, in contrast to what is happening in the United States, the Banco Central de España kept interest rates at 2%.

European and American stock markets have been moving in a lateral direction as we mentioned in last week's column. The market's reaction to the Fed's increase has been negligible since the decision was considered a foregone conclusion by most analysts.

To no one's surprise, the largest amount of activity was registered after the speech that followed



DOW Jones and IBEX activity

the announcement of the rise in rates. The speech made mention of inflation, the macroeconomic variable that has got everyone's interest of late. Greenspan's vision calls for coherent and balanced inflation rates that fall in line with the growth of the American economy, which should be about 5% for this year.

Greenspan added that one part of the upturn seen in past months

is based on "temporary factors", meaning the price of oil which has reached \$40 per barrel. Investors appreciated these words of calm, and the American stock market responded with increases just after the speech. Yet this alone is not

The market's reaction was negligible since the decision was expected by analysts

enough to increase the confidence level of investors.

In addition the figures for business confidence, employment, and monthly sales in some sectors are slipping to some degree, which represents an opportunity for investors to make strategic sales before the long 4 July holiday weekend. We hope to have a bit more activity in the next few weeks since we are in the period for which second quarter results will be published. Everyone will be watching to see whether the strong growth rates for profits in the first quarter will continue so that we might exceed the predictions.

AMERICA

Job growth down

The pace of US hiring slowed sharply in June after several months of gains, the government reported yesterday, as employers added fewer than half the number of payroll jobs forecast and hours of work shrank. The Labour Department said only 112,000 jobs were created last month, far fewer than the 250,000 that Wall Street analysts had anticipated. Job totals for April and May were revised down, to 324,000 and 235,000 respectively, from 346,000 and 248,000. The unemployment rate has remained at 5.6%

FRANCE

More power strikes

Workers at power companies owned by the government have continued a series of strikes that started three months ago over attempts to privatise the French utilities. The most recent strikes comes just after the French National Assembly supported a bill which would authorise the partial sale of Gaz de France and Electricite de France (EdF). Even though the most recent strike targeted EdF, power service was not interrupted, according to a strike official. Previous strikes have resulted in interruptions of service to the Eiffel Tower, parts of Spain and the homes of French politicians.

MEDIA

Legal fight to end Telegraph sale

Conrad Black, ex-chief executive of the company that owns the British newspaper *The Daily Telegraph*, is suing to prevent the company from selling off the newspaper and its sister titles. Hollinger Inc, the newspaper's parent company, is attempting to sell two *Telegraph* newspapers and *Spectator* magazine to the Barclay brothers for a reported 665 million pounds.

AFRICA

Civil servants demand pay rise

Unions in South Africa are demanding a 12% rise in pay for civil servants to keep pace with the salary levels in the private sector. The government is offering a rise of 5.4%, below the increase requested but higher than the country's annual inflation target of 3-6%. The average private sector wage is 40% higher than in the public sector.

Business university's academic setting is both multicultural and English-speaking

President of European University explains what institution has to offer to students

Dirk Craen is president of European University, a private business school established in 1989 in Barcelona. He was EU Barcelona's first Dean and is now the president of the group which has schools throughout Europe. *Catalonia Today* interviewed Craen at the University's location on Ganduxer Street in the Sarrià-Sant Gervasi district of Barcelona.

Who are your courses designed for?

Our core student body consists of people between 18 and 25 who are looking for a sound business education in a multicultural atmosphere. Since our courses are taught in English, you can find students from countries such as Norway or even as far away as China, and just about every other place in-between. With only 20 students per class, they have plenty of opportunities to interact both in and out of class.

These students gain a solid

grounding in both current management theory and practice in the standard areas of business management, finance, marketing and human resources. We also try to make the curriculum more practical and up to date by offering courses in areas such as entrepreneurship, diversity issues, presentation skills, to name a few.

Who else studies at your university?

We also have a slightly more mature group of students between 25 and 35, who already have a certain amount of business or professional experience, and wish to study an MBA course. They tend to have a cosmopolitan outlook and are looking to gain in-depth knowledge of management. They have the option of studying either full-time or part-time.

If all of your classes are in English, then one assumes that your



Dirk Craen was the University's first Dean when it's Barcelona location opened in 1989

students need to be fluent in English.

Not necessarily. Local students who wish to join our undergraduate program but have insufficient English skills now have the option of studying the first three semesters in Spanish and the final three semesters in English.

Do you offer any classes that might be considered non-traditional?

We are also launching our Creativity Trust course, aimed at discovering and developing new ways of using the mind and emotions and, hence, new ways of approaching problems and making decisions. Students receive a monthly book by Mr. Pier Paolo Pécub, a Swiss philosopher who is a former student of our university, and have the option of attending his seminars at a reduced rate.

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SPORTS

Armstrong eyes sixth Tour

As the Tour de France begins today the big question is who can stop the American from winning a record sixth race

M. BUNN / R. EDELSTEIN

Today is a hallowed day for cycling enthusiasts, as it is the day when scores of cyclists set off from Liège in Belgium on the first stage of the 91st Tour de France. Over the next three weeks, the teams will be covering 3,395 km of flat stages and gruelling mountain climbs, finishing in Paris, as the Tour has done every year since it commenced in 1903. Dr Michele Ferrari, medical coach to many cycling greats, says "the Tour de France is the most demanding cycling race on earth, as it necessitates really intense, prolonged effort, often under extreme weather conditions ... which all makes great demands on the cyclists' bodies".

The Tour's universal prestige derives both from its reputation for being the ultimate in punishing road races, together with the fact that it has been going so long, and few people have been as enchanted by the legend of the Tour as Lance Armstrong, the US Postal team's five-times winner. Unlike other cyclists, the American dedicates his whole year to training for this one event, and that is partly why this year he is on the brink of winning an unprecedented sixth victory.

Ironically, Armstrong owes much of his success to cancer. Having originally been a triathlete and a swimmer, he developed a burly physique which hampered him when he switched to cycling, and in the early '90s, the great Belgian cyclist Eddie Merckx told him that he would never be a contender until he lost weight. Then Armstrong developed testicular cancer, from which he nearly died, but after a miraculous recovery, and his return to cycle training, Armstrong found that his atrophied muscles had grown back leaner and stronger, and with his general weight loss he became the perfect-shaped cyclist. All his previous cycling strengths - such as power, endurance and his excellent sprint finish - had increased spectacularly, and as he was carrying so much less weight, his climbing ability in mountain stages also improved considerably.

And so today Armstrong begins his bid for his sixth Tour, something no one has done before, but victory is by no means a certainty, as every year his competitors have been steadily slicing seconds off his overall lead. One piece of bad news for Armstrong is that his nemesis, the Swiss Jan Ullrich of the T-Mobile team, has recovered from his weight problems and poor health



at the start of the year, since when he has finished seventh in the Tour of Germany before triumphing in the Tour of Switzerland. Ullrich, who has won the Tour de France only once but has finished second three times behind Armstrong, said last week: "I've come second long enough. I'm convinced I can beat Lance this year."

In addition, as Armstrong well knows, Ullrich is a rider who tends to get stronger as the Tour progresses. "When we get to the Alps and the Pyrenees," the Swiss added, "I'll be in top shape".

Another cyclist who will be looking forward to the mountain stages (and especially the exhausting 16th stage, the individual time-trials from Bourgd'Oisans up to the peak

of L'Alped'Huez) is the young Basque cyclist Ibon Mayo, of the Euskaltel team. Though a definite outsider behind the top two favourites, Mayo has the advantage of being far and away the best climber in the field, and only a few weeks ago he cruised to victory in the Dauphiné Libéré race, in which one of the crucial stages was the climb up Mont Ventoux, which he won easily. Lance Armstrong was one of his competitors in that race, and though the American was using it as a preparation for his beloved Tour de France, he will be under no illusions as to the danger that Mayo represents.

However, Mayo is not his only problem, as this year's Tour will feature a very strong field, and the

outcome will probably remain in doubt until the very end. Disappointingly for Spain, one of the cyclists who will be missing this year's Tour is another Basque, Joseba Beloki, who never finished lower than third between 2000 and 2002, before crashing out spectacularly in last year's race.

Apart from the fact that he has still not completely recovered from that dramatic accident in the Alps, he has also been in dispute with his team Brioches La Boulangerie over a medicine he wanted to use to treat his pollen allergy. Owing to strict French regulations, he will not be able to take it because it contains cortisone. Beloki fuelled the row when he told a French newspaper that riders in other

French squads were using the same product, though he quickly retracted this claim under threat of legal action.

Armstrong has remained cool under the stress of being favourite and the increased competition; speaking from his home in Girona (an area the great sports star loves because, he says, "here they just treat me like anyone else"), he claimed that he is much stronger and healthier than last year. However, there is one variable that is out of the American's control, no matter how hard he trains: Eddie Merckx said last week that although Armstrong is "head and shoulders above the rest, his real enemy is the heat. Ever since his illness, he just can't take it anymore."

CT BACK

WEATHER

CROSSWORD

Summer conditions

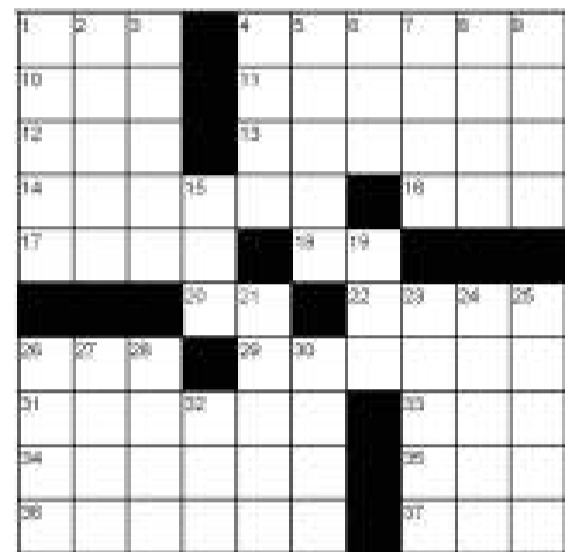
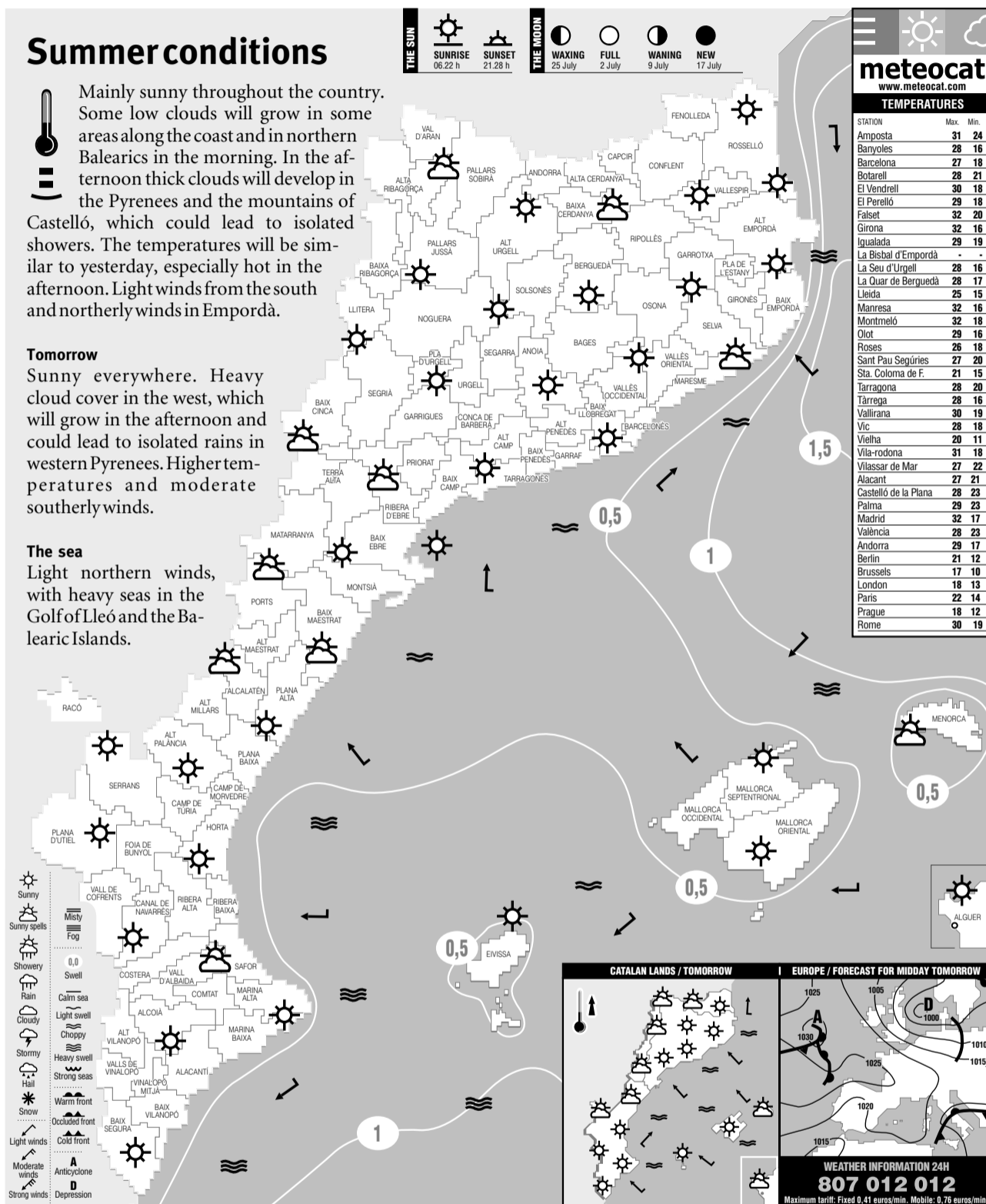
Mainly sunny throughout the country. Some low clouds will grow in some areas along the coast and in northern Balearics in the morning. In the afternoon thick clouds will develop in the Pyrenees and the mountains of Castelló, which could lead to isolated showers. The temperatures will be similar to yesterday, especially hot in the afternoon. Light winds from the south and northerly winds in Empordà.

Tomorrow

Sunny everywhere. Heavy cloud cover in the west, which will grow in the afternoon and could lead to isolated rains in western Pyrenees. Higher temperatures and moderate southerly winds.

The sea

Light northern winds, with heavy seas in the Gulf of Lleó and the Balearic Islands.



ACROSS

1.Vex. 4.Shallow Areas. 10.Both. 11.1960's nonconformist. 12.Compete. 13.Timely (2 wds.). 14.Humbled. 16.April (abbr.). 17.Join. 18.United Nations (abbr.). 20.State of being. 22.Iraq's neighbour. 26.Southwestern Indian. 29.South-Central Dravidian. 31.Disclose. 33.Put. 34.Hurt arm holders. 35.Dynamite. 36.Aver. 37.Pigpen.

DOWN

1.Having to do with the navy. 2.Excuse. 3.Reap. 4.Footwear. 5.Eastern religion. 6.Choose. 7.Capital of Western Samoa. 8.Wilted. 9.Prophet. 15.Winter sport. 19.Zilch. 21.Canned chili brand. 23.Corrodes. 24.Representative. 25.Batty. 26._Major (Big Dipper). 27.Narrate. 28.Corrupt. 30.Otherwise. 32.Compass point.

ANSWERS

ACROSS

1.Nag. 4.Shoals. 10.All. 11.Hippie. 12.Vie. 13.On time. 14.Abased. 16.App. 17.Link. 18.Un. 20.Is. 22.Iran. 26.Ute. 29.Telugu. 31.Reveal. 33.Set. 34.Slings. 35.TNT. 36.Allege. 37.Sty.

DOWN

1.Naval. 2.Alibi. 3.Glean. 4.Shoe. 5.Hindu. 6.OPT. 7.Apia. 8.Limp. 9.Seer. 15.Ski. 19.Nil. 21.Stagg. 23.Rusts. 24.Agent. 25.Nutty. 26.Ursa. 27.Tell. 28.Evil. 30.Ene. 32.Else.

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