



PAQUITA GARATEA

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Summer vacation becomes a lesson in learning

by Nathaniel Scott

"My political activism in Portland is centered around anti-apartheid," said Paquita Garatea, who recently returned from a visit to Euskadi.

Euskadi—or the Basque Provinces, as it is commonly called—consists of seven provinces: four in Northern Spain and three in Southern France. The provinces sit in the Pyreneese mountains bordering France and Spain and stretching from the Bay of Biscay to the Gulf of Lyons.

Garatea's grandparents from both sides of the family tree migrated to this country between 1915 and 1920. They settled in the Boise, Idaho area and later some family members moved to Eastern Oregon.

Garatea had never been to the "Basque country" and this summer while taking a break from Portland State University (PSU), she went there to visit relatives and friends.

In some respects, the people of Euskadi are like Blacks in South Africa: they are fighting for their independence. Garatea said, "It was and still is taxation without representation." Garatea said the suppression of human rights in Euskadi became especially oppressive during the reign of Gernal Francisco Franco who ruled Spain for over 40 years.

When Garatea stepped off the plane in the "Basque country," she said she was greeted by "Guardian civil"—soldiers—wielding machine guns.

The history of the "Basque people is oral," Garatea said, adding, "Our history has been lost."

Yet some things remain the same. "The language, which Franco tried to destroy," Garatea said, "remains the most distinct language which is not Indo-European." Garatea added that the language has not been linked to any other language in the world.

"I stayed in a fishing village of 15,000 people. It was called Ondarroa and the village supplied all of Spain with fish," she said. "I stayed with my maternal grandmother."

But even in a place where one would expect serenity to be blue skies and swells of water from which fishing nets were hauled, violence struck.

Garatea spent 21 days in "The Basque country" and went to seven demonstrations. One demonstration, which drew 13,000 protesters, was in response to the government's cutting social security and beefing up the military. The other demonstration,

which lasted seven days, was in response to the police abducting three men in the middle of the night.

"We demonstrated every day until they were set free," she said. The men, one of whom was a cousin of Garatea's, were tortured for seven days about a government outlawed group called ETA.

There are two factions to ETA, *Euskadi Ta Aramatasuna*—which means Basque and arms—and *Euskadi Ta Askatasuna*—which means Basque and freedom, she said. The former is the more militant of the two.

"Without pressure from the militant faction of ETA there would be no cultural freedom now," she said, adding, "now there are grade schools that teach the Basque language, more cooperatives and businesses and you can fly the *Ikurina*—the Basque flag."

Garatea believes the situation in the Basque provinces is more like Ireland's situation. And similar to the IRA, she said, "ETA is not going to give up until the seven provinces are free." She added that ETA has a motto which says, "*Zazpiak—Bat*. It means the seven are one."

Garatea is a history major at PSU and she intends to do a portion of her graduate work in the "Basque country." A single parent with an eight-year-old son, Jonas, she has been active with PSU's Students Against Apartheid. Portlanders Organized for Southern African Freedom and was student body president at Lane Community College in Eugene during academic year 1982-83. Garatea was also research assistant for PSU's African Art exhibit last spring.

While living in Eugene, Garatea was active with the Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America. Before moving to Eugene, she was a member of Oinkari Basque Dancers of Boise, Idaho for ten years.

"The struggle is for all people. The struggle continues and will continue and we must unite," she said.

Andrew Salkey, the celebrated author-poet wrote in the poem "Winnie Mandela":

*She keeps hauling in thick, slow rope,
the kind she must bind the long promise in
and elevate much higher than her head,
never to lose sight of the right of her millions.*

Change a kid's life

The North Portland Youth Service Center is currently seeking volunteers to participate in its Big Brother/Big Sister program. The program needs people who like kids and who have a few extra hours per week to share with a young friend. These kids are lonely, many come from troubled backgrounds, and they need the companionship, guidance and friendship of a mature adult. Big Brothers and Big Sisters take their partners on outings, they ride bikes, they go to the zoo, and they spend a quiet evening together watching TV. What is most

important to the child, however, is that he or she has someone special who listens and who cares.

The Big Brothers/Big Sisters program does not take too much time, just a few hours per week. Volunteers are matched with children according to interest areas and general compatibility and orientation to the program and ongoing support services are also provided.

To find out more about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, contact Eleanor Gwynn at the North Portland Youth Service Center, 285-0627.

Y-Indian Guide Program starting

The Northeast Family YMCA is getting ready to open up registration for the 1985-'86 Y-Indian Guide Program. This parent/child program for boys and girls ages 5 - 9 is based on a magnificent culture that has attracted boys and girls since the dawn of our nation: American Indian lore. The Indian theme provides a common focus that holds the interest and active participation of adult and child alike.

The parent/child pair is the basic unit, of which six to nine units make up a tribe. These small groups meet twice a month in the evenings and

take part in occasional Saturday and weekend outings. Each child is brought into a different and closer relationship with his/her parent. To achieve this stronger relationship Y-Indian Guide programs are designed to that "special time" can be spent between parent and child, learning about each other, having fun together and establishing relationships that will last a lifetime.

Cost is \$35.00 for nine months of fun, sharing, learning and togetherness. Registration starts September 15th at the Northeast YMCA. For more information call 281-1169.

Hold beginning business workshop

The Small Business Administration (SBA) with the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Active Corps of Executives (ACE) and Portland Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a beginning business workshop on Thursday, September 5, 1985. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The workshop will feature representatives from SCORE and ACE. All speakers have a working knowledge of small business.

The subjects covered will be marketing and promotion, recordkeeping,

money management, success and failure factors, pros and cons of incorporating, and SBA programs. Free management aids will be distributed and a film will be shown, if time permits. There may be time for questions and answers.

The September 5 workshop will be held at the Willamette Center, 121 Salmon Street, Conference Rooms A and B, Portland, Oregon. There is a \$10.00 fee, pre-registration is required. For information and registration, call SBA at 221-2682.

CAAP seeks board members

The Community Action Agency of Portland (CAAP) provides planning and contracting services for approximately \$5 million in poverty services for the Portland area. Services include programs in the areas of emergency shelter for the homeless, helping with energy costs, providing health and dental care, providing food, clothing and housing, and helping people find jobs.

The CAAP Board is comprised of equal representation from the private sector, the local low-income community and elected officials. The agency is currently seeking candidates for seats representing the private sector (business, industry, labor, religious, etc.) and the low-income community.

To request an application for candidacy please call 295-6790.

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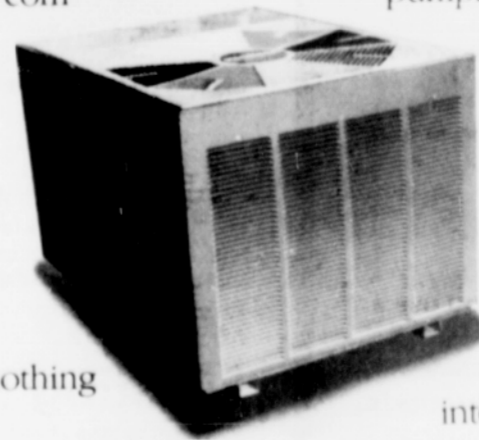
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