

Carnaval news

Best carnival in 20 years



Chayanne, sure to be one of the big draws at Carnaval

▲ According to the latest news from the Carnaval offices in Santa Cruz next year's event is gearing up to be one of the best in the last 15 or 20 years depending on which headline you believe. Word from the office of deputy mayor Ángel Llanos and fiestas councillor Maribel Oñate is that this will be the most spectacular display in the Latin music world in many a year. Artists such as Chayanne, Carlos Vives, Xiomara Laugart - hailed as the new Celia Cruz - and Orishas have also been signed up, as

well as English tribute band Village People, over 20 Canarian orchestral bands, and much much more. Some of the key dates will be Xiomara Laugart concert on Friday February 1st in the plaza de España after the parade (she will also perform during the Gala election of the Carnaval Queen), Carlos Vives on Saturday February 2nd also in the Plaza de España, where Chayanne will also perform on Saturday February 9th. That afternoon the Village People concert takes place in the plaza de Europa.

National bike demo

Bikers protest



Many of the riders wore red shirts to simulate the blood lost

▲ Over two thousand bikers rode out in protest at the condition of the road surfaces and the danger of the crash barriers to those who choose two wheeled transport. Size didn't matter, neither did colour or make, the only important thing was to be there engines running and placards waving. Many of the riders

wore red t-shirts to symbolise the blood and lives lost. It was a brotherhood of bikers motoring out in a common cause, to prevent accidents and save lives and limbs. Bike riders have long complained of the proliferation of crash barriers, which they describe as long sharp knives which kill at only 30 kilometres an hour

and claim that far from saving their lives they have actually mutilated and killed riders. There is an alternative solution, a bonded double rail which is part plastic or some other shock absorbent material, but protests so far have fallen on deaf ears. Added to that is a long list of complaints about road conditions which

includes slippery paint used for road markings, soil washing onto the road surface, drain covers, holes in the road and sump oil dripped by uncaring car drivers.

The Spanish RACE estimate that whilst the bikers make up 15.2 per cent of drivers on the Spanish roads, almost one in four, 23 per cent, of those who are killed in road accidents are of this group and that they have three times as much likelihood of having an accident.

A hefty 15 per cent of those bikers who drove into crash barriers died and a further 60 per cent were seriously injured. Riders claim that if the authorities are serious about cutting down on accident figures they should be looking at the needs of bikes as well as cars.

The tinerfeñan protest was part of a national campaign that saw tens of thousands of bikers riding in Indian file all over the country and included many of the country's well known stage and screen stars as well as professional motorbike riders.

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