

THE CIRCLE - NEWSLETTER

THE ONLY INFORMAL NETWORK OF U.S.F. ALUMNI IN THIS WORLD

Tradition has it that around may 1, somewhere in Europe, Circle members gather to celebrate life, the fluids that keep us going and more in general international friendship.

Annual Meeting

The place to be this year was Madrid, Spain.

Further in this Newsletter you will find the official write-up about this big event; composed and edited by the Circle's one and only historicus, Wilfried Kainz.

Here are already some notes from a privileged observer.

Starting tuesday night, april 30, people started endangering the Madrid airport. By wednesday noon, we were all, more or less together: Bernard, Wilfried and Brigitte, Jan, Jos, Eric, Alexander, Beatriz, Ramon, Mariano and Luiz.

A nice gang, although we missed the Norwegians and the Germans.

We've visited Escorial; or at least we tried. By the time we finished lunch, the famous monastery was already closed. We learned to read the spanish clock: lunch is a gourmet party, starting around 2 or 3 pm and lasting for at least a couple of hours. After lunch, you get some hours to prepare yourself: dinners comes around the corner somewhere by 11 pm.

During a typical Madrid lunch in The Bolo restaurant we had a very serious and very official Annual Meeting. Afterwards we attended a bull fight. But it was so cold that we didn't bother too much about the sixth and last bull. Our absence during the last part was not a major problem for the picadores, the toreadors and the matador.

At night we split up. Most people went for another load of food at a Mexican restaurant; whereas some, more cultural, people went to a kind of pub where live music featured several hits of Carmen (that's an opera, folks).

Spain = Sun : so, we drove to Segovia. We touched snow.

Segovia has a nice cathedral and a fortress where the nurse would throw the king's baby out of the window. Compassionate as she was, she jumped after the baby. We thank these and other nice stories to our guide Beatriz, who had an answer to all our questions (who could argue anyway ?)

A baby pig turned out to be a nice snack to go with some wine.

At night, back in Madrid, we went for dinner to a 'pollo-place'. The most interesting menu you can imagine: one drink: cider; one food: chicken (pollo). No forks, no knives, just bare hands. Only two words to talk to waiters: 'mas pollo, mas pollo'.

Saturday brought us to sunny Toledo. It's a beautiful city, a real open air museum. The beauty of the cathedral is impressive.

You'll also find the San Juan el Rey monastery. Flemish architects made this fine piece of architecture.

A drink on a terrace in the sun in the midst of this historic city is something you always wanted to do but that they didn't teach you at business school.

As usual the Spanish hosts had arranged for an impressive dinner in Madrid. This being our last night together, it was time for some new talented singing. Eric and Jan performed a Shakespearean duet; Mariano brought us to a moving silence with an emotional Spanish love song; Jan and Jos honored their home country with a song. Dinner lasted until ...

Sunday was goodbye day. Early morning some people already had left. After lunch there were eight, then there were six, and four, and finally... peace came back to Madrid.

Gossip

Anne Sorensen has quit her job with Miljoinvest, a mutual fund, and moved from Bergen to Oslo. After a trip to France she is now a full-time job seeker.

Nick Gerber got laid off from his work in Los Angeles. So, he moved to San Francisco and started his own business, Enable Development. He helps non-profit organizations with their pledge redemption activities: i.e. follow-up on the promises to give. Nick has been on vacation to Italy, where he met Bernard. Nick regrets to inform Bernard that he has not found out any more information about exporting U.S.-style potato chips to Switzerland.

Jim Hofman returned from Hong Kong to California, where he now works at Prima International. Their business: international technology sales and distribution development; His job: manager Rest of World Prima International.

Jos Piron made a two week car trip throughout California, with start and finish in San Francisco, of course. Conclusion: don't tell me anymore there's no fine wining and dining in the U.S.

A meeting at USF with Barbara Lacey of Alumni Relations resulted in some thoughts about setting up a European Alumni Chapter. Anybody who has more ideas on this or who wants to get involved in setting something up, please contact me.

Christophe Lemaire has moved from San Francisco to Wilmington, MA. He is still with the same company, Analog Devices.

John De Klerk joined the circle. After his military service he worked for a while as a commodity trader with Nidera, a feedstuff trading company. As soon as he got that job, he married Marianne and went on a honeymoon trip to Kenya. Recently however, he quit his job and is now joining Henkel Holland as an account manager. (he hasn't quit Marianne, though).

- IMPORTANT NEWS - THE 1992 ANNUAL MEETING -

The Annual Meeting in Madrid, 1991, has decided that the 1992 Annual Meeting will be

held in **NORWAY**. And they are serious about it. May 1 till may 3 was set as a trial time schedule by the Annual Meeting.

The Norwegian Organization Committee however has already asked to postpone the event by some weeks, calling meteorological reasons. Apparently, not everybody is as efficient in organizing a Meeting on-time as the Belgians and even the Spanish.

Please, make your comments, wishes and desires about the best timing known to the Organization Committee asap.

Circle Membership Fee

As decided at the Annual Meeting in Madrid, the Circle has introduced an annual membership fee; as a contribution to the editing, mailing and drinking expenses of the Newsletter.

In order to show our commitment to a United Europe, the fee has been set to 10.00 ECU, or the equivalent in any other serious currency. As long as your 'fee-paid' field in the data base shows an 'N', you are kindly instructed to send the money asap to Jos Piron, Peelsestraat 47, 2380 Ravels, Belgium. You can make a bank transfer as well, but bank expenses might eat up most of the amount (account 230-0102195-74 at Generale Bank, Ravels).

Data-Base

As usual a copy of the data-base comes along with the newsletter. Several updates have been processed since the last edition.

Remember: information not updated since one year will be eliminated ! Failure to update will result in eternal expulsion ! As a result of this year's Annual Meeting, a new field has been added: "fee paid" : no comments necessary, I guess.

Epilogue

Thank God it's over !

So far the summer issue of the Circle Newsletter.

Whatever is happening to your life, careers, drinking habits: let us know. Feel free to contribute your remarks and articles to this wonder of modern literature.

Many sincere thanks to all of you for dropping a card, a letter or making a call about what's happening to you and your friends.

Keep in fax ...

...AND WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !