

# THE CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

December 2002

All right, I know the web site still remains work in progress but at least I paid to keep the (vacant) address for another year. I spare you the details of what went wrong; good news is - it will be ready in the near future....

X-mas season is approaching fast and it's time to reflect over the year and start to celebrate or to fall into another depression. Those of you who were (un) fortunate enough to be copied in to follow the rather interesting exchange of views on the world supplied by Elena and Rich and distributed by Jan, have had their share of getting depressed anyway. But maybe one last comment from an amazed observer:

- Growing up in a liberal city and getting above average education does not stop you from spreading Mid-West views
- Growth can not be the single measure for achievement in society
- There is definite need for more sophisticated spam filters...

What else is new!?

Paris has been working on outlining the next years meeting in Athens, which seems to be coming along pretty good. I would suggest starting planning and locking in on airfares, I am sure this will be a memorable event. Jan has been kind enough to supply his (charming!) report on the wedding of Ann-Catrin in Norway earlier this year, and there is a reduced gossip and update section at the very end of this newsletter.

On that happy note I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry X-mas and a happy and successful New Year 2003

Wilfried

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## Athens “Circle Meeting” *April 30-May 4, 2003*

Expected Weather Conditions: Average temperature at the time ranging between 15-25 C. Most probably sunny skies throughout stay.

### Arrival Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup>

Airport: Athens Airport “Eleftherios Venizelos”

Hotel: St. George Lycabettus

Located in the center of Athens in the area of Lycabettus Hill and fashionable Kolonaki area. Walking distance access to Acropolis, Plaka area, shops, cafes, and restaurants. For detailed information regarding variety of rooms/location/prices please visit their site

[www.sglycabettus.gr](http://www.sglycabettus.gr). Contact person and reservations deadline will be supplied by end December.

Transportation Airport-Hotel

Best way to take a taxi. Will take approximately 40’ depending on time of arrival and traffic. Average cost will be between Euro 25-30.

### Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>

Meeting at the hotel lobby 10am

10-2 pm Visit to Acropolis and nearby Plaka area

2 pm –4 pm Lunch in traditional Greek restaurant in Plaka area

4pm-8pm Return to hotel and free time

Meeting at the hotel lobby area at 8pm for drinks

9-1 am Circle Dinner at the hotel restaurant “Grand Balcon” overlooking Athens and Acropolis

### Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Meeting at the hotel lobby 9 am

9 am-7pm Excursion to Delphi (temple of where used to be the center of the earth), Arahova (nearby skiing resort), Itea (nearby seaside location where we are going to have lunch). Arrangements will be made for coach/tour guide etc.

9-1am Dinner at Gastra (small picturesque international restaurant in the Kolonaki area, walking distance from hotel)

### Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Meeting at the hotel lobby 10am

10-2pm Visit to Benaki museum/shopping downtown Athens

2-4pm Lunch at the downtown Athens Lawn Tennis Club (oldest tennis club in Greece/founded in 1895 by ex-King/happen to be a member and regular club player)

4pm-7pm Free time

Meeting at the hotel lobby at 8pm

9pm-12 pm Dinner at the Ithaki seaside restaurant in Vouliagmeni (most exclusive Athenian seaside suburb)

12pm-open Greek traditional music and dancing in seaside club

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Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>

Meeting at the hotel for brunch  
Free schedule for the day/departures

*For further details please contact:*

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*Here comes Jan's (overly charming) report on Ann-Catrin's wedding*

Ann Catrin Hjelle (USF BA 1992) got married to this charming guy Pal, who has 2 charming children. We were lucky enough to stay over at Petter Danielsen's charming new penthouse behind the Oslo Royal Palace, where he now lives with Angelique, the Belgian decorator who seems to make him rather happy these days. Petter's daughter Elisabeth is joining them there to live with him for a year or so, while Nina Moss is also about to move back to Oslo.

The wedding was wonderful, in a charming wooden church near the ski jump of Holmenkollen, where the CIRCLE had a visit some years ago. Then the convertible Rolls Royce drove the couple away, whilst all attendees were entertained in a double-deck bus, visiting places around Oslo, the weather being gorgeous and the drinks delicious.

Then the reception generated the presence of more USF alumni including Hilde Schinrud (MBA 90). The wedding dinner with superb food and delicious wines including some formal, yet very emotional speeches that made most of us choke with emotion, even though they were mostly in Norwegian. The supposedly 'cold' Scandinavians turned out to be everything but..

Oslo was beautiful, as usual, and the hot weather invited for terrace-beers and entertainment in local establishment with blond presences. Jan & Luis bumped into several USF-alumni at the disco, including finance whiz Uve Grinacker, and at a bar they met up with a whole series of USF alumni, mainly undergraduates, almost 12 people!

After the wedding, Petter was so nice to drive Luis & Jan to the wedded couple's country cabin near the water, where they had a wonderful relaxing time in the sun, skinny-dipping and crab fishing with Petter's associate Dag.

It was a very fine week, and we recommend Norway to everybody!

Jan

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*So, what else is new? Gossip from direct and indirect sources...*

Fertility is finally up in the Circle ranks although some members stubbornly resist to participate. But thanks to **Beatrice** and **Henning** and **Mariano** and *Lourdes* this resistance will be more than compensated. Nils will get a brother or sister in early spring, whereas little Mariano and his sister Ines will have even two more family members to share with. What a nice way to deal with the pension problem!

Notice to future meeting holders: Plans submitted for future Circle meetings better foresee baby-sitting facilities...and appropriate nurses...

**Jos** and *Nathalie* will spend X-mas and New Years in Canada, supposedly with friends and family and are happy with their life in Ravels; during summer they took parts of the Gander family on a guided tour through their chicken holocaust plant...kids are to be believed on the road to recovery, mostly due to the compensating private zoo in the Piron garden where they could play with deer, goose etc....

Another former Circle president is busy with marriage plans and relocation. After proposing to *Angelique* earlier this year, **Petter** will honor his promise and is checking out places in France to host an adequate ceremony sometime in 2003. Angelique moved up to Oslo during the summer but latest rumors have it that they are heading for warmer areas soon. Details to follow.

**Dirk** has decided to re-join the group of the working classes after some sabbatical break. Negotiations are in the final stages, official announcements will be spread soon. *Elena*, apart of defending the traits of mankind in an admirable manner has been busy in setting up operations in Italy for the media company she works for; that brought so much credit that now she will be dealing next with France.

As previously announced, **Jan** has to leave his chateau and will move to the city center of Brussels. So visitors to the city might get surprised during their coffee break in the fashionable "Sablon" area that Jan himself might show up at their table... an adequate house warming is to be expected.

After some precious years of silence the notorious and suspicious Circle activity made it again into the official USF newspaper. This wonderful example of miscommunication reads as follows: "According to **Jan Melsen, MBA**, the Circle an informal USF Alumni Association is still thriving. There are approximately 30 members living around the world who graduated from USF's MBA program from 1988-1990. The Circle's main event, which changes locations every year, is a long weekend of informal meetings. This year marked the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Stockholm, Sweden the last weekend of May. Previous meetings have been held in Wien, Oslo, Paris, Pamplona and San Francisco. After a ten year tenure as

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president **Jos Piron, MBA**, relinquished the presidency to **Peter Danielsen, MBA, 89.**”

“Selten so gelacht!” as the Germans would say...

And just as I was running out on publishable stories...The one and only **Michael Horn** has showed up again. After some years of silence where he was supposed to be hiding somewhere within the Volkswagen group, he was spotted on late TV the other night. No, it's not what you might think – there were no numbers to call or money to pay...he just presented the new “Phaeton” car to an amazed audience – he seemed to be doing well although no direct contact could be established.

Myself had a busy but mediocre business year, which was partly compensated by great bullfights (Ronda, Sevilla, El Puerto de Santa Maria) and some outstanding opera (Salzburg) and above all some stability in my private life.

Well, that's it for this year. I guess Paris compiled a wonderful program for the next meeting in Athens, so get into the planning mode. Many thanks for the formal and informal contributions to this newsletter. Have a great holiday season!

Wilfried