

Another roadmarker..... MELIKAPHKHAZ #57

Been on this road a long time now. I'm Lon Atkins, ye friendly editor, located at 9942 Voyager Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Got corns on my feet. Doing these Zugzwang Publications. Listening to Jimmy Buffett. On this crazy day in late March, 1977. SUPPORT SOUTH COAST CON IN '78!!!! Y'all come!!

END OF COLOPHON: Yes, my friends, this is the end of the colophon. Having finally decided on a format -- an old favorite of mine -- it is possible to inform you in proper and conventional method that the colophon has ended. This typically signals the beginning of the body of the zine.

STUDIO BLUES... AND BLAHS: Although I've seen it with so many other artists, not the least of which was Van Morrison, there was some damn good doubt in my mind as to whether Jimmy Buffett would succumb. Well, he has.

The coming of success is the coming of opportunity to relax. In the literature of management it is supposed that a going-forward person must be kept challenged or stagnation will set in. Corporations often find tough assignments for their budding superstars. The entertainment industry, apparently, substitutes the grind of a concert tour.

What they also tend to do with performers that have the adjective "mellow" included in their portfolio is "homogenize" albums issued after the initial success. Jimmy Buffett's latest is an example. "Changes in Latitude... Changes in Attitude" has been put through the studio blender to produce a pleasant bit of Buffett-fluffett. Nice background music -- not too high; not too low. Not one song leaps out and grabs me by the throat. Not one.

Don't get me wrong. Even Buffett in coasting mode has the talent and technical skill to produce superior work. This is an enjoyable album, though not a great one. I'm going to be a bit slow in buying the next offering. I'm sure Jimmy will focus his talent again -- I just hesitate to buy his contract-mandated albums in the interim.

CHOP CHOP: Kathy's birthday gift this year was an Epicurean Food Processor. This nifty device without doubt is a great boon to our kitchen activities. It chops, grates, slices, grinds and blends. Chopping and mincing activities that used to take much energy can be accomplished in a flash. It's really an incentive to cooking. I doubt if SFPA will run out and buy food processors, but I can heartily recommend them!

BACK TO SCHOOL: With Kathy and both kids all in school, I've been feeling a bit stagnated. Seeing an advertisement for the Pepperdine University outreach program, I reacted by attending one of their introduction sessions in this area. One of Pepperdine's programs, the MBA II, looked ideal for me.

Designed for the person with five or more years of managerial experience, this Masters in Business Administration program runs 16 intensive months. Courses are blocked, use a seminar style, meet one evening a week for 4 or 5 hours, and draw upon the experiences of the students as case material. One's thesis may be related to job activities. As my background is technical, I need training in business and financial methods at this point in my career.

I approached my boss about the idea and he was enthusiastic. (In fact, he has applied for entrance into the program himself.) The necessary approval signatures were all obtained and Pertec had promised to pay for my education (about 4 grand)..... so long as I remain an employee during the schooling. Naturally, I intend to.

Last Monday I went for the interview,

last of the barriers. This followed the investment of \$25 and 10 hours filling out exhaustive interview forms, etc. My favorite was the Sentence Completion. There were a hundred. A couple follow. The given portion, starting the sentence, is given in all caps.

AGGRESSIVENESS is a strong but capricious beast; ridden with bit and spurs it will bear one far.

DETAILS are like a mass of people; whether they are a mob or an army depends on organization.

DESK WORK breeds more desk work. And so it went. Many sentences were personal professional lead-ins. I spent a lot of time thinking about issues raised by the forms I had to fill in. Much of the thought never appeared on the forms, but was valuable to me.

At the interview I felt confident. This, despite the fact that I was one of the youngest and least experienced (or titled) of the managers applying. The interview unfolded as a group discussion of management questions, during which we all had an opportunity to outline our educational and professional background. The professor leading the discussion guided the conversational focus so as to encompass everyone.

During the interactive portion of the interview I felt good about my contributions. These highly experienced managers seemed less quick than I with the jibes and quizzical interjections of the prof. I only hoped it wasn't shallowness that gave me this fine feeling.

At the conclusion of the session we took the Miller Analogies Test, a correlative intelligence exam. This, I smashed. That made my chances look good. I should find out next week. The program is designed for experienced managers, and on that score I was less qualified than most. We shall see...

Whatever happens with Pepperdine, I shall pursue further education in business aspects of my job. This is decided, even if I have to be my own guide. It's necessary if I wish to seriously think of advancement.

The effect on my hobby time is predictable. It means apa retrenchment, chessic inactivity, etc. For SFPA, a low Atkins profile is likely. Small zines like this one. I'll be castigated for my minac and lack of mailing comments. About the time everybody has given up on, I'll spring a 50 page Mel.

BOX SCORES: This issue brings a new rating to the eyes of SFPA -- the Rating of Apa Performance and Endurance. It represents both activity and longevity. This index figure is the "composite" rating I discussed with Gary Brown some three years or more ago. With luck, I may publish these ratings again in another ten or twelve years.

CONVENTIONS AND SUCH: It is with deep pride and justifiable gladness that the South Coast Con Committee announces the Official Opposition of DCN MARKSTEIN. Mr. Markstein, famous for his vituperative opposition to just about everything, has formally damned the South Coast Con Concept. "Assholes! Assholes!" shouted Markstein. "They've got no right to do something I don't approve of," sputtered the Fabulous Feudist. "If Hulan and Atkins think their elitist activities will go unchecked, they have another think coming!"

Meanwhile, South Coast Fandom rejoiced as this apparent endorsement by a major figure of influence in Southern Fandom put them ahead in the race. As the South Coast Con Com puts it.....

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If Markstein hates us, how can we lose???

Huh?  
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# THE BOX SCORES

MEMBER	HITS/AB	AVERAGE	P(73)	P(74)	P(75)	TOTAL	PAGES/MLG.
ATKINS	61/61	1.000	43	17	20½	1562½	25.6
BIGGERS	14/16	.875	24	12	6	171½	10.7
BROOKS	53/53	1.000	25	25	20	848½	16.0
BROWN	33/34	.971	37	23	11	923	27.1
BUDKA	9/13	.692	21	0	10	152	11.7
CARLBERG	45/45	1.000	24	36	26	1032½	22.9
FRIERSON, M.	40/42	.952	12½	38	21	1311	31.2
FRIERSON, P.	27/31	.871	2	4	1	209½	6.8
HULAN, D.	49/53	.925	71	29	20½	1801½	34.0
HULAN, M.	14/14	1.000	9	1	1	89	6.4
HUTCHINSON	24/24	1.000	60	57	34	878	36.6
INZER	37/38	.974	16½	7	2	511	13.4
JENNINGS	9/14	.643	4	0	23	166	11.9
LILLIAN	37/37	1.000	73½	42	42	1730	46.8
MARKSTEIN	46/46	1.000	156	21	49	1913½	41.6
MATHEWS	16/23	.696	13	0	5	194	8.4
MOUDRY	5/5	1.000	22½	12	7	68½	13.7
REED	31/31	1.000	19	15	17	466	15.0
REINHARDT	23/34	.676	7	0	7	175	5.1
SPANIER	2/2	1.000	—	6	1	7	3.5
STEELE	38/39	.974	6	22	22	625½	16.0
VERHEIDEN	23/25	.920	10	16	14	388	15.5
WEBER	7/9	.778	30	45	26	164	18.2
WELLS	16/20	.800	4	1½	5	88	4.4
WHITEHEAD	4/5	.800	0	19	27	84	16.8
WIRTH	24/26	.923	15	28	6	210	8.1
<b>WL</b>							
ANDRUSHAK	5/5	1.000	2	9	17	36	7.2
BOUTILLIER	7/7	1.000	27	25	2	96	13.7
PHILLIPS	3/3	1.000	5	7	5	17	5.7

RATING OF APA PERFORMANCE AND ENDURANCE (AB • AV • TOTAL • .001):

- ① ATKINS, 95.31; ② D. HULAN, 88.32; ③ MARKSTEIN, 88.02; ④ LILLIAN, 64.01;  
 ⑤ M. FRIERSON, 52.42; ⑥ CARLBERG, 46.46; ⑦ BROOKS, 44.97; ⑧ BROWN,  
 30.47; ⑨ STEELE, 23.76; ⑩ HUTCHINSON, 21.07.

"OLD ZIPPO" PRIZE: REINHARDT, 4.02.