

This shortzine is Melikaphkhaz #64, done for SFPA 83 by Lon Atkins, 9942 Voyager Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. A Zugzwang Publication in May 1978. "We've gotta roll with the punches / Learn to play all of our hunches.." -J. Buffett

\*\* The last mailing was certainly an enjoyable one, filled with much comment-  
\*\* able material, yet I doubt that I'll be getting around to mailing comments this shot. The reason is mundac. (As you guessed.) Over the past few months I've been growing dissatisfied with my present job. It's hard to put a finger on the exact reasons, though I can issue a list of symptoms, but the bottom line is simple: I'm not enjoying myself like I used to.

This condition prompted a bit of Market Investigation. I was gratified to discover that there are other firms with a need for Software Management. One of these organizations has reviewed my qualifications and offered me a position. It entails a promotion (I would report to the General Manager) and a raise (always a nice thing).

After 8½ years with one company, there're a lot of ties and friendships. I hate to leave those behind. The past couple of months have been very rough on me. The past week has been hell. That may seem strange, being faced as I am with two good choices -- progression at Pertec would seem to be assured eventually. The situation just plays straight into my weakness for agonizing over decisions.

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Here I am with a new typeface and the end to the above story. When I discussed my situation and feelings with management here at Pertec, they were quite concerned. They wanted to keep me employed at Pertec and were more than willing to seek solutions to the problems. After a couple of weeks of negotiation, we've reached a mutually satisfactory agreement. This entails a couple of organizational changes and a clearer statement of responsibility and authority. I'm willing to give it a try and see if together we can make it work.

My primary project is an interesting one with three development groups working on it. One group is, of course, here in Irvine. One is in Culver City. The third is in Maurepas, France, right outside of Paris. In the course of being Program Manager for this project, I'll be forced to travel to France.

First trip is scheduled for late June.

[Well, June 15-23.] This will be the first time I've been back to Paris since summer of 1971. I'm looking forward to the trip immensely. First, the project review to be held then will tell me a lot about the French side of things and what to expect there. Second, it'll be fun.

Kathy has her CMA exam then, so I'll be going alone. Perhaps a later trip will work out for us both. Kathy is graduating from Long Beach State on May 25 with her BS in Accounting. Then she'll take the CMA exam. She'll be looking for the right job in her field -- cost accounting -- although I'm hoping she gets a few weeks of rest first. These last four years have been quite a grind on her. (Not to mention me and the kids.)

Gotta run. Maybe there'll be mailing comments again next time. I hate breaking a string like that once I get it rolling.

\*T\*H\*E\*      \*M\*E\*L\*      \*A\*D\*V\*I\*S\*O\*R\*

Each month The MEL Advisor answers a few inquiries from our readership on matters of tact, social custom and savoir-faire. In the interests of protecting the delicate sensibilities of our supplicants, the actual names have been disguised so that no one can guess which SFPAn submitted which question. This policy may be discontinued if future letters are not accompanied by a crisp new five dollar bill....

From: "Fried in NO" -- I WANT TO DO SOMETHING NICE FOR HANK REINHARDT, SOMETHING THAT GETS TO THE ESSENCE OF THE KIND OF PERSON HE IS, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO BOTH FLY TO ATLANTA AND BUY ENOUGH PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE. WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST THAT'S ECONOMICAL BUT THOUGHTFUL?

MEL replies: call him collect to wish him a happy Mother's Day.

From: "St. Pete Tasteful" -- AT LAST I'M ABLE TO AFFORD A TRIP TO CALIFORNIA FOR AN EXTENDED FANNISH HOLIDAY. MY PROBLEM IS THAT ROWDY AND DISGUSTING BUNCH OF SFPANS IN ORANGE COUNTY. HOW CAN I SPEND SEVERAL GLORIOUS WEEKS IN CALIFORNIA AND AVOID THEM?

MEL replies: contact "Shitface in Miami." He knows how.

From: "a marietta man" -- MY WIFE CONTINUES TO USE HER MAIDEN NAME, EVEN THOUGH WE'VE MADE IT LEGAL AND ALL THAT STUFF. I CAN SEE TWO POSSIBLES, HEREIN PRESENTED AS CASES: \* SHE WISHES TO PRESERVE HER OWN IDENTITY, OR \* SHE DOESN'T LIKE THE WAY I WRITE MY LAST NAME.

MEL replies: we believe the answer may be found in the lower case.

From: "Short timer" -- EVERY TIME I PLAY HEARTS WITH HANK AND ASK WHAT WAS LED WHEN I'M SECOND HAND, I SEEM TO GET SHORTER. NOW I HAVE TO LOOK UP TO ALL MY FRIENDS AND HAVE TAKEN A VIOLENT AVERSION TO RANDY NEWMAN. HELP!?

MEL replies: why not visit Joe Moudry and restore your perspective?

From: "A Gleaming Salesman" -- RECENTLY I WAS HAVING DINNER WITH A BIG CUSTOMER. TO LIVEN UP THE CONVERSATION, I TOLD ABOUT MY RECENT TRIP TO GREEN BAY. WHEN I CONCLUDED THAT NOBODY BUT FOOTBALL PLAYERS AND HOOKERS LIVE THERE, HE INFORMED ME THAT HIS WIFE WAS FROM GREEN BAY. BOY, WAS I EMBARRASSED AND I LOST THE ACCOUNT. WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?

MEL replies: grinned fetchingly and asked him what position she played.

From: "New Texan" -- I HAD TO LEAVE THE CITY OF MY DREAMS IN ORDER TO BECOME FAN GOH AT A CONVENTION THERE. IS THERE A MORAL IN THIS? I THINK MAYBE "ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER."

MEL replies: perceptive fellow! Think about the Worldcon.

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THE END. ALL THE ABOVE ARE COURSE JOKES &  
NOT TO BE TAKEN PERSONALLY, (AS HAPPENED ONCE  
BEFORE.)

TAKE CARE, YALL!

— LON