

MELIKAPHKHAZ #58a short one

An apazine of dubious value produced for the SFPA by Lon Atkins, senior stringologist. Address: 9942 Voyager Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. A May day late in the month. 1977. Another Zugzwang Publication of indeterminate number.
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Last ish I told you about the MBA program I was applying for. Well, today I'm in --- in up my eyebrows in work. The course is tremendously enjoyable and challenging. One of the first items on the MBA agenda was a weekend "communications workshop" held at a hotel in Woodland Hills. This was also a team-building exercise for the class. We got much closer and began functioning in open, interactive mode.

Typical classes involve discussion of the readings in the context of our managerial experience. The prof contributes guidance and theory. We're encouraged to actively feedback to our colleagues on points of discussion/example.

It reminds me, in many ways, of a fannish panel on -- say -- the realities of genzine pubbing or con bidding. The team session was enough to get us all relaxed. We let it out. The bash and counter-bash is still a bit reserved. This politeness will give way to friendly honesty to an even greater degree as the course goes on, I'm convinced.

A negative effect is the lessening of time for fanac. I see this lasting for another 15 months. It's a good investment in the future. The MBA degree is not only a good credential for one in my field, it's also an experience to sharpen perception and effectiveness. I've arrived at my current position by virtue of blind blundering, guided by my instincts. To hope to rise higher I must study to become an adept. So you guys get some small Mels.....

Yet another Recording Artiste has been revealed to me. Metaphorically speaking, of course. (Damnit....!) Emmylou Harris ranges from trite to needle-sharp on her album "Luxury Liner." I don't recommend this one to anyone but people who like country-tinged pop jolts. If you're into both Jimmy Buffett and Linda Ronstadt, with a touch of Buck Owens or the New Riders, then you'll dig Emmylou.

She does well on certain songs. "Pancho & Lefty," "You're supposed To Be Feeling Good," "I'll Be Your San Antone Rose," and a couple of others come over with real impact. The rest don't convince. Unless she's into the song, the technical qualities of Emmylou's voice transcend her ability to project. On songs she gets behind, one almost wishes for the technical brilliance of a Baez.

This could be a thrush to follow.

Then there's Carole King -- dynamite!! Thanks to Marcia, I finally have a copy of "Tapestry". She cheered up a depressed Alonzo (work ego) by making a surprise gift of the album. Carole sings with heart and talent. She writes her own stuff and has been in the songsmith game for years. "Tapestry" was issued in 1972, but it's been a classic ever since.

With the bottom of the page coming fast, I'll conclude. Sorry to see Stven step down; hope he stays in SFPA. Good luck to Gary and whoever runs for OE. Alan? Yes, Alan. Let's draft him. He deserves it, the b*st*rd, for winning all those Egoboo Polls.

Next issue will be short too. The one after that, however, may be larger. I'll have a break between trimesters. It would be nice to do mailing comments..... Quite a few SFPANs foregoing mailing comments these days.

— Lon