

multi-instrumentalist Al Garth of Loggins and Messina fame who led the horn section- played the violin and the trumpet. Eagles, for their part, played a string of their hits including, "Wasted Time", "New Kid In Town", "One Of These Nights", "Take It Easy", "Life In The Fast Lane", "I Can't Tell You Why", "Love Will Keep Us Alive". In addition, the individual band members also sang their solo hits including "Boys of Summer", "Dirty Laundry", "Heart Of The Matter" by Don Henley, Glenn Frey chipped in with "You belong to the city" et al. The climax was, of course, Hotel California and this song deserves a separate paragraph.

After a break of 5-10 minutes, a single beam of light appeared on Al Garth that was reminiscent of Star Trek's telepod. A melodious tune came out of his shiny golden trumpet and it took the audience a few seconds to recognise that he was playing the notes from Hotel California - the entire stadium just went ballistic. Don Henley began, "On a dark desert highway.....". Then at the end of the song when Don Henley sang the chilling finale, ".....you can check out anytime you like but you can never leave" Joe Walsh took over and played out one of the most memorable guitar solos in the history of Rock 'n' Roll. That moment I knew I got my money's worth.

The band itself looked like a motley crew: Timothy B. Schmit seemed stuck in a 70's time capsule while the rest of the members had all shed their post Woodstock, unkempt, hippie image and looked all grown up, mature, clean cut, clean shaven, neatly attired. If they donned black suits, they could easily pass as Wall Street investment bankers. Don Henley and Glenn Frey were at the forefront. While the former appeared to be reserved and serious, Glenn Frey provided some comic relief when he dedicated the song "Already Gone" (prematurely) to George Bush, referred to "Take it to the limit" as the credit card song, and claimed that "Lying Eyes" was inspired by his first wife the plaintiff. Joe Walsh was the showman. His striking blonde hair was in sharp contrast to his outfit - psychedelic sweatshirt, sweat pants, and sneakers. He was zestfully romping all over the stage and entertained the audience with some great guitar solos. Though well in their 50's, time did not seem to have dented the bands' energy even by a molecule.

The last song of the evening was, fittingly, the lovely ballad "Desperado". As the final curtains fell, I realised I had witnessed rock history. The Eagles may be old, but they are not a relic. And if this concert was any indication, the band should be rocking for some time to come. This tour was dubiously called "Farewell I", thus, I presume there will be Farewells II, III, and more as I suspect The Eagles will be flying again.

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