

The Joenz Boy

THERE IS supposed to be a write-up of my interview with Mark occupying this space but I've lost my notes as usual — however I have a feeling that they are behind the picture of **Dave Evison** and myself in my living room so hang on everyone while I go and look ... there that didn't take long did it? Good filing system I have. I also found **Wes Marchant's** top eleven which I will leave you to wonder about until next week ... settle down now and orft we jolly well go ...

The first time I saw **Mark Joenz** he was deejaying and entertaining about 1,000 kiddies (youngsters) at Wythenshawe Forum near Manchester, most of them were just standing there staring at him and wondering how long **Spike Milligan** had been jocking. (actually he looks like **Eccles** rather than **Spike** — he just acts like **Milligan**).

The next time I saw him (apart from near accidents in Manchester as he drove a strange looking van around) was at **Radio City, Liverpool's** very own Commercial Radio Station broadcasting on 194 meters medium wave and 96.7 megs on VHF (stereo, by gum) and doing the Soul show between the hours of 6.30pm and 8.30pm on a Friday night.

Mark is 24 years old and hails from Manchester, he also lives there although he points out for **Liverpool Nationalists** that half his family comes from **Liverpool**.

He's been deejaying since the age of 13 at discos around the Manchester area. He used to work in a bank and I suspect he's now jocking until the money cools down when he will repair to the **Bahamas**. Since leaving the bank, he had one day-time job which he refuses to talk about for print, and I agree with him, but apart from that he's worked mobiles and clubs around the Manchester area until joining **City** in February of last year where he was hired to do four **Night-Owl** shows per week (2am till 6am).

After a while he moved to doing three **Downtown** shows (10pm-2am) per week until he took over the Soul show a couple of months ago from **Phil Easton** who decided to concentrate on his **Rock Show**.

This is consequently the first time that **Radio City** has had separate jocks doing the Soul and Rock shows and not before time either. It is not common knowledge because we've not told anyone before but a year or so ago **Allan Dene** and myself were actually offered the job of doing the Soul show on **City** between us — we turned it down when we were informed that it meant doing the **Rock show** as well!

Well, to return to **Mark Joenz**, the show is fast moving, slick with flip, funny (to some people, myself included) comments and intros, leaving absolutely no time for anyone to tape specific records (as if they'd do such a thing) and cramming a hell of a lot of music into

CHECKIN' IT OUT



Frank Elson's weekly
Soul tonic

those two hours. He plays a mixture of oldies and modern stuff and like everyone he tries to pick the hit tracks off albums before they are taken for singles.

He told me: "I play all kinds of Soul, I make no distinction between different types although having worked around Manchester for so long I've obviously got a good selection of mid and late sixties stuff."

Mark is also very conscious of the time element of the show, "I even dropped the use of a chart so I could fit more music in", he said, "I know I'd rather listen to a record than a list of records myself and I think my listeners would too."

It seems to work as well as already, in a very short space of time, **Mark's** show has achieved a great

deal of success amongst Soul fans in the area.

Over the years **Mark** has always played more Soul than pop, "I just appreciate good music be it Soul or Rock. I don't like the mass of Pop music much and, although I don't call myself a Soul Fan as such I have more Soul records than any other kind"

As a Jock who appreciates "good music", **Mark** has managed to put together a good show for Soul fans. He's primarily interested in his listeners and really enjoys working on the radio — that enjoyment goes over the air. He's had a successful start to the Soul show and I for one expect that success to be maintained.

Album Picks

IN HONOUR of the fact that more people are getting into albums these days (not least myself) I'm going to get into printing my own current British-released album playlist selected from the albums I'm playing at the moment. My records are filed in my office upstairs and I keep a small number downstairs near to my deck.

1. **Thelma Houston, "Any Way You Like It", (Motown):** — Anyone who has read the half-dozen different write-ups I've given **Thelma's** "Sunshower" album will know that this is one lady Soul singer whose work I really appreciate. Where she has failed, or been failed I should say, in the past is in the production and promotion side of things. **Jimmy Webb** gave her a great production but promotion didn't live up to it with "Sunshower" but now she's with **Motown** producers and their excellent promotion department.

Musically, apart from the excellent "Don't Leave Me This Way",

which just might give the lady a hit, **Thelma** is in perfect voice as ever, handling a wide range of songs. I've always enjoyed the way she handles a disco tune with as much emotion and verve as a slower song.

2. **Caldera, "Caldera", (Capitol):** — Much has been written and heard of the fusion of modern Jazz, Latin American, African music with a smattering of Funk thrown in ... groups like **Santana** and artists like **Deodato** have managed quite well with a mixture — and **Love Child's** Afro-Cuban Blues Band really made the whole thing respectable. In **Caldera** I personally have found a group which makes the whole thing more than respectable — it turns it into an art form.

A **Wayne Henderson** production the album is really the work of the members of the band who are all either South American born or of South American origins. All six tracks are self-penned and show a form and imagination which is sadly lacking in much of this type of music.

When it all comes down to judgments it's still what's in the groove that counts and it is here that **Caldera**, obviously a group of highly proficient musicians really score. While based, as expected on the keyboards; guitar lead, with lots of happy percussion thrown in the "dirty" trombone playing — especially in a solo, goes right down into my shoes. The music of **Caldera** is bright, alive, human, exciting, emotive and above all Soulful ... I rather think that it's one of the finest pieces of music I've heard in a long, long time.

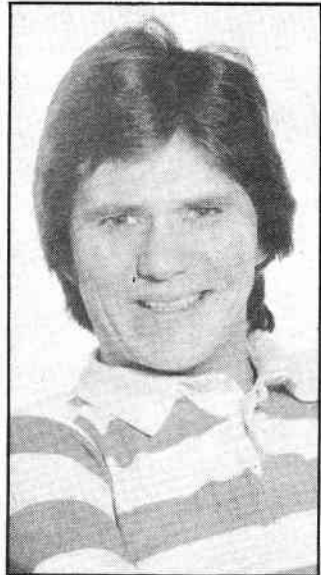
3. **Bill Withers, "Naked And Warm", (CBS):** — people are always complaining that when I write about records I just describe them as fantastic and leave it at that. Well Soul music is emotive music and I'm an emotive person and never have been and never will be a professional music critic.

Having thus run out of superlatives during the last two write-ups I don't know exactly what to say about this offering. However, as it is number three in my current favourites maybe you lot can guess from that. **John Abbey** will handle the reviews and I'll just stick to recommendations. Buy this (and the other nine on this list).

4. **Brass Construction, "Brass Construction II", (UA):** — no description needed!

5. **Phoebe Snow, "It Looks Like Snow", (CBS):** — No, I'd never heard of her until a few months ago either. Uncomplicated female Soul singing, songs based on Country/Rock/and straight Soul techniques, all performed without the slightest hint of a funky disco beat by a lady not afraid to belt it all out. No cutting corners, if **Phoebe** feels a yell is right then she'll yell. Rather old-fashioned in feeling if not in sound.

6. **Bunny Sigler, "My Music", (Philly Int):** — this guy should have been a superstar years ago, would have been too if not for his production work taking off from his performing. Another one of those guys



Mr. Joenz: Esq: at least he's a better jock than he is a spellist!

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Checkin-It-Out:

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who shows that it doesn't have to be plastically to be danceable. One of Soul music's great standers-by-the-wayside, at least as far as this country goes, it'd be something else if he would tour this country.

Dressing up in the full regalia of an Indian chief and jumping through a "plate-glass" window on stage is just part of this showman's act! On record he needs no manufactured gimmicks, it's all down to a straight vocal soulfulness allied to Philly backing.

7. The Blackbyrds, "Unfinished Business", (Fantasy): — still one of the strongest and most vibrant of the Funk groups while retaining their own identity the Blackbyrds' albums always seem to go one step beyond the run of the mill Funk band which is not surprising with Donald Byrd hovering around. For Funk to be really good it needs strong musicianship and the Blackbyrds have that of course.

8. F.B.I. "FBI", (Good Earth): — the most popular album in my household during the Christmas period it is the excellence of the early January releases that pushes it to this position rather than boredom on my part. This is British Soul music at its very best and as "Sounds" Fred Rath says in the sleeve notes If this band ever tour the States we'll never see them again". Musical excellence allied to a taste which moves from outright Funk to smooth vocalised ballads make this a British album to be proud of.

9. Ronnie Dyson, "The More You Do It" (CBS): — mixture of vocal Soul from a guy for whom great things were being prophesied a couple of years ago. After a quiet period Ronnie's come up with something that will appeal to straight Soul fans and perhaps do something towards making those predictions come true. I hope so.

10. Leon Haywood, "Intimate" (CBS): — Sexy, sexy, sexy! With

Soul! Another of the "old men" of the Sixties who is still around and in fact making better and better records by the minute. Like Ronnie Dyson, Bunny Sigler and Phoebe Snow, Leon is a singer for whom the artistic merits and technical qualities of the backing music are largely superfluous. Give him the song, put the music in the background and leave the rest to him.

Bits and pieces

PENN Roberts at CBS in Manchester says he'll buy me a drink if I say that **Billy Paul's**, "Let 'Em In" should be a single . . . right Pen that's one St. Clements you owe me **Derek Allen**, Soul Show presenter on BBC Radio Nottingham until the money ran out is back at Basford Miners Welfare Club on Tuesday nights, 8-10pm admission 20p/ee. The club put groups on for a while and lost the regular crowd which Derek and **Rob Smith** had built up with 100% Soul. Now they're back it's a bit of struggle to get the crowd back . . .

Derek also does a couple of nights at Mascari's Club in Beeston, near Nottingham. He does Fridays and Saturdays playing 90% Soul, times 8pm-12.30am and a free meal with admission. Other nights at the club include Sunday and Monday with **Ray Webster** playing all Soul, free admission 8-11pm; and Wednesday and Thursdays Northern Soul with **Tony Marshall** spinning 'em 8-11pm again free admission.

Not room for the oldies chat section but Sundays at Wigan Casino are featuring an oldies night with **Kenny Spence** (from Mr. M's) assisted by **Michael Walker**, a new jock to the oldies scene but reputedly just returned from a visit to Alaska where his brand of oldies went down well although his reception was described in the "Pot Boiler and Match Tester's Gazette" as 'Icy'! Mr. Walker, whose other accomplishments

include running an All-night dance and record company promotion work, is taking up deejaying again after a lapse of five years and 102,875,472 bottles of Scotch.

Seriously, once a deejay always a deejay and Mike tells me it's something he's felt like getting back into for a while. Sunday nights is the night by the way. It's not full-time for Mike but I understand he'd be interested in deejaying work on Saturday nights when he usually has nothing to do!

CBS have a disco pack coming out of 25 singles combined with a couple of albums for deejays only with only two seconds between each track. They can be bought singly or altogether and the singles are all to be pressed in blue vinyl. Although original numbers will be used they will be quite a collectors item.

The list is. — **Sly and The Family Stone**, "Dance To The Music"/"Stand"; **Isley Brothers**, "That Lady"/"Summer Breeze"; **Harold M. & the B.N's**, "The Love I Lost"/"Bad Luck"; **O'Jays**, "Backstoppers"/"Love Train"; **Lou Rawls**, "You'll Never Find A Love Like Mine"/"From Now On"; **Johnnie Taylor**, "Disco Lady"/"Somebody's Gettin' It"; **Archie Bell & The Drells**, "I Could Dance All Night"/"Soul City Walk"; **MFSB**, "TSOP"/"Sexy"; **Al Matthews**, "Fool"/"All I Have To Do Is Dream"; **Adriano Celentano**, "Language Of Love"/"Disc Jockey"; **People's Choice**, "Do It Anyway You Wanna"/"Here We Go Again"; **Titanic**, "Sultana"/"Sing Fool Sing"; **Billy Paul**, "Me And Mrs Jones"/"Let's Make A Baby"; **Redbone**, "Witch Queen Of New Orleans"/"Wovoka"; **Labelle**, "Lady Marmalade"/"Messin' With My Mind"; **Johnny Johnson & the BW**, "Breaking Down The Walls Of Heartache"/"Music To My Heart"; **Ronnie Dyson**, "When You Get Right Down To It"/"The More You Do It" **Brenda & The Tabs**, "One Girl Too Late"/"Magic Of Your Love"; **Robert Knight**, "Everlasting Love"/"Love On A Mountain Top"; **Shirley Ellis**, "Soul Time"/"Waitin'"; **O.C.**

Smith, "La La Peace Song"/"The Son Of Hickory Holler's Tramp"; **Peaches And Herb**, "Soothe Me"/"Satisfy My Hunger"; **The Temprees**, "I Found Love On A Disco Floor"/"I Dare You"; **Chairmen Of The Board**, "Extra Added Power In Your Love"/"Everybody Party All Night"; **Gary Toms Empire**, "7-6-5-4-3-2-1"/"Drive My Car". **John Lees**, CBS Manchester promotion man has talked about the album idea for jocks for a few years now but the singles are a good idea. As I said before, they are great for collectors.

John Green, formerly Radio Hallam Soul guy, and **Malc Burton**, Northern Soul fan, have gone into the promoting business. Venue is Wakefield's Unity Hall and its All-nights. They've had a couple already but dates for your diary include, March 11th; March 18th and March 25th. March 11th time is 2am-8am and the others are 12 midnight to 8am. Admission is £1.25 and there is no membership required. There are two rooms, one for current sounds and one for oldies and there is a large pool of jocks to choose from.

Capitol have a maxi single of **Tavares** on release. Featuring, "Mighty Power Of Love" (from "Sky High" album); "I Hope She Chooses Me", (from "In The City" album); "My Ship" (from "Hard Core Poetry"); and "Strangers In Dark Corners" (from "Check It Out"); the first 12,000 copies printed are in 12 inch form with picture sleeve. The "Check It Out" album, the group's first, not previously released in this country is released at the same time

I know lots of you have expressed interest in coincidences after a recent mention I made so how's this one Tavares, probably my favourite group of the moment, recorded "Check It Out" the song title which gave me the idea for the name of this column . . . however I got the idea from the **Friends Of Distinction's** version of the song and at the time the Friends were my favourite group. I love coincidences!