

BMI clampdown

THE RECENT news that the BMI are planning a massive campaign to clamp down on Bootleggers can't have come a moment too soon for Northern fans with the current spate of pressings rising almost beyond believable proportions. Northern Soul fans may have lost patience with the pressers long ago but the good news is that both the BMI and the record companies have now lost theirs.

Pressings (*illegally*) of records rare on the Northern Scene has *been* with us for so long that the earlier bootlegs have acquired some rarity value – and I *have* heard the argument from Northern fans that pressings are often the only way in which they can obtain good sounds.

But, no matter what the arguments, there is one thing that everyone must remember. Bootlegging a record is not only *legally* wrong it is also *morally* wrong. Every journalist involved with Soul music has written this more than once but you must remember that illegally-pressed records pay no royalties to Record company, artist, producer, or writer. The only person who gets rich is the bootlegger.

It is a crying shame when an artist who has put a lifetime of experience and dues paying into a record receives not one penny for his efforts while someone who has access to a pressing machine can become rich and fat. No matter

CHECKIN' IT OUT



Northern prose by Frank Elson, the man voted Most Likely To by the class of '67 (most-likely-to WHAT we haven't discovered yet, but we will, we're sure we will!)

how much you want a particular sound please, please force yourself to do without the bootleg version.

Something I can never understand is how people (such as shopkeepers) who would no more think of stealing money than they would of blackmailing someone are quite content to stock and sell records

which are, when all is said and done, just a different way of stealing.

JALN at Jingles

EXCITING time for me at Jingles, Chesterfield, a couple of weeks back when I saw the JALN Band at last. After hearing so much

about the show I was as disappointed as the band were when they suffered some problems with their PA but less disappointed than they were at the audience response.

Talking to the band both before and after the show, I formed the opinion that they are sincere and dedicated fellers – very much into playing their music and enjoying it. Afterwards they were a bit put down thinking that they had not “made the people happy” because of those PA problems.

It is, sometimes very difficult for a group to grasp the fact that while they may know that they've not been able to perform to the full of their capabilities the mass of the audience know nothing of the sort. But I can assure the band that everyone I spoke to after the show really enjoyed themselves.

Steve Martel, the jock at Jingles, and Frank, the very personable manager, tell me that they plan to feature more Soul bands as money and availability allow. Steve is very interested in up-and-coming bands, and is currently agitating for Heat-wave to make an appearance.

Those of you who noticed my write-up of the Wednesday night Funky scene at Jingles may be happy to know that so long as the Wednesday night scene continues you can gain free entrance by taking along this column and waving it around (in a friendly fashion) on the door. So, not only is this column highly entertaining, infor-

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mative, full of modesty from its writer — it's also worth money!

Final point about the JALN Band; I say and heard enough to know that this British-based band can get it on every bit as good as many of the US acts I've witnessed and if you get a chance to see them then I can heartily recommend you go along and boogie!

Timepiece

SPENT another very enjoyable night at the Timepiece in Liverpool recently, with Les Spaine yet again showing why he's the sort of Funky jock that others copy. He's opening a record shop soon which has to be good news for Liverpool people hunting for those hard to get hold of Sounds.

Current popular sounds in the club include, **Walter Jackson** "Player In The Band" (from the *Chi-Town* album that I raved over recently and still am raving over); **Bootsy Collins**, "The Name Is Bootsy Baby", "The Pinnocchio Theme", and "Rubber Duckie" (all from the same *WB* album); **Tata Vega**, "Try God" (from the *Motown* "Full Speed Ahead" album); **Fuzzy Haskins**, "Which Way Do I Disco" (from the "A Whole Nother Thing" album, *Westbound*); **Dynamic Superiors**, "Stay Away" (from their current *Motown* album).

It's nice to find a club where the jock can work his way through all the disco dross pouring out of the States and pick out the goodies. Les was as enigmatic as ever, still incensed by that geezer passing himself off as Les Spaine at the Ritz recently, and still managing to run around the club, hold three conversations at once, drink and thwart my attempts to turn his smooth delivery into chaos!

It was nice to bump into people who have become regulars at the Timepiece after reading in this column about the place — that, believe it or not is what this column is supposedly all about.

Always a great night at the Timepiece with everybody happy and partying — in fact the only unhappy person in the place was Lynda who gets my vote for the most lovely cloakroom lady in the country who was sad because her mate hadn't turned up and so she had no relief to allow her time to go for a dance (big chorus of "Aaaaaah").

Wakefield Unity

COULDN'T keep away could I? It's the scones you see . . . From the number of people at this latest Wakefield All Nighter it would appear that it is getting more and more popular and as I said in my last column I have the feeling that it is definitely here to stay. My latest visit was little more than a flying visit but I took the opportunity to get some popular sounds

lists from a handful of the Jocks.

Soul Sam, as usual with an eye on the pressers (and why not since his "Baby Sugar I Love Ya" by **Prince Ella** and **Sydney Jones** was pressed) declared that all his good titles were cover-ups, so I didn't bother.

Derek Greenoff mentioned the following sounds that are popular where he plays: — **Judy Street**, "What" (*Strider*); **Chapter Five**, "You Can't Mean It" (*CBS*); **Flores Devone**, Don't Kiss Me Now Kiss Me Later" (*Phi-Dan*); while **Paul Rowan** mentioned, **Paula Parfitt**, "Love Is Wonderful" (*Beacon*); **Tangiers**, "Dance Of Love" (*Pumpkin*); **Brainstorm**, "Loving Is Really My Game" (*Tabu*-album track); **Living Colour**, "Thank The Lord For Love" (*Mad Hatter*); **Esther Phillips** "Boy I Really Tied One On" (*Kudu*); **Richard Searling** was there, doing his first-ever spot at Wakefield and went down well but I didn't get the chance for a chat.

Burnley Rose Room

THIS IS another scene that appears to be living up to the promise of its beginnings when I popped up recently to find **Ginger** and **Andy Ryding** doing their things. Some news about All-dayers at the Cats Whiskers (of which the Rose Room is only a part) are that on April 17th the *Chi-Lites* will be appearing and on May 15th *Junior Walker* will be appearing. For times and prices for both dates watch the adverts in B&S.

Other news is that **Dave Miller** (the manager) and **Ginger** have helped to organise an All-dayer at the *Tiffany's* in Harlow, Essex for April 3rd. **Ginger**, **Soul Sam**, **Russ**, **Brian Rae** and other jocks will be there for the first All-dayer in that part of the world. This Elson feller is also going to try his hardest to be there.

Ginger is also suffering from the pressers these days and was reluctant to mention current sounds that he has until I explained that I've forsaken Tips as such and am now concentrating on current popular sounds rather than those which the jock is tipping to become big. At least that way a Jock stands a chance of playing a record for a little while before the pressers get going.

So, current popular sounds at Burnley include: **Bernie Williams**, "Never Again", (*Bell*); **Cheryl Grey**, "You Don't Love Me Anymore" (Australian *HMV* and a female version of the *Johnny Caswell* song); **Leslie Huggams**, "Don't You Ever Care" (*Atlantic*); "Gonna Be A Big Thing", **Yum Yums** (*ABC*); **Margaret Mandolph**, ("Something Beautiful" (*PLANetry*).

The Winstanley philosophy

I WAS somewhat surprised to find **Russ** playing records like "Dancin", *Crown Heights Affair*;

and "3001", *Salsoul Orchestra* at Wigan when I popped in on his Wednesday night disco. (Note I said *surprised*, not *upset* — I don't mind what people play so long as it's good). I asked him why he would play records like that on a Wednesday night and not on a Saturday night.

"I've got nothing against modern sounds at all," he said, "but I won't play them during an All-nighter because I believe that All-nighters are for people who travel a long way to hear sounds that they can't hear elsewhere. To me the Northern Scene has always been a 'rare' scene and with only a few exceptions will I ever play records which are currently available."

That's fair enough. Although I've stood up for the change in Northern Soul as far as music is concerned I do accept that All-nighters have always been venues where the rarer sounds got an airing. To those of you who are still agitating either for or against the newer sounds I can only repeat — to me a Northern Soul record is any record which, when played in a Northern Soul club has the effect of getting people up to dance.

If you consider that any jock is playing music that you don't agree with then don't act like spoiled children — use the power of your entrance money and go to find the manager of the club and tell him what you think — then, don't keep moaning about it. If nothing is done stop going. It really is that simple.

Elson's gems

WHILE the **Walter Jackson**, "Feeling Good" album is still the most popular thing on my turntable the nearest rival is **Natalie Cole's** "Unpredictable" on Capitol. I doubt if any singer in the history of music has lived up so well to early promise as Ms. Cole has. In just three albums she has set herself up as the lady singer that all others must strive to catch. As with her last two albums this one contains no bad tracks nor even a slightly sub-standard one while I have to admit that "Unpredictable You" is to me what an old master is to an art lover. Ms. Cole is an *Artiste* with a capital "A" and long may she reign as my personal Queen of Soul.

Bits and pieces

THERE IS something happening at Bolton Palais after all . . . following my mention of a rumour of a Northern Night at Bolton Tiffs (known as the Palais) I now understand that **Alan Soul** is doing Sunday nights there . . . more details as and when I get them . . .

Bob Caulfield from Oldham tells me that *Druffies Anniversary* at Dukinfield was well supported . . . I had hoped to be there myself but unfortunately had to pass . . .

Barrowford RAOB Club on Fridays has settled down since my visit some time ago when things

didn't seem to be going too well . . . they've got some decent equipment in and I understand that they're getting good support these days . . .

Reg Williams runs a Friday night scene at the Bentley Hotel (known locally as The Drum), Watchhouse Lane, Bentley, Doncaster. It is open each Friday from 7pm-11pm and costs 30 pees to get in. Reg tells me that this scene has been going off and on since 1969 and on one memorable Friday recently they managed a grand total of six people through the doors! Jocks are Reg himself, **Cookie**, **Jazzbo** and **Russ** and naturally enough they could do with a little support. Music varies between oldies, newies, floaters, stompers and just about everything else . . . oh, and I nearly forgot . . . **Bron** goes. (Funny people these Yorkshire Welsh).

Reg is the bright geezer who, when asked if, when he was married with a sixteen year old daughter, she wished to go to All-nighters replied, "Oh that's alright. I'll just take her with me!"

Pat Brady mentions that Mondays at Keighley RAOB club are going down well these days . . . 7-11pm with 30 pees admission. Pat tries to play only oldies that haven't been pressed but as I told him he must get tired of playing two records all night . . .

Nice to see *Heatwave* doing well in the charts with "Boogie Nights" yet another of those records which proves that British based groups can play Soul. **Johnny Wilder** of the group is of course from Chicago but I believe the rest of the group are British . . . those of you who are wondering if this is the same **Mr. Wilder** who used to be part of **Melaine** and **Johnny Wilder's** *Chicago Heatwave* are correct and may pass Go . . .

Steve Myers writes with info about a local Soul night at the **George IV** pub on Infirmity Road, opposite the **Royal Infirmity Hospital** in Sheffield. Day is Monday, time is 7.30-11.30 and admission is free. Music is mostly oldies provided by the people who go there . . .

Tim Arguement writes from **Whitby** in Yorkshire (on T'East Coast I believe) with similar info. **Tim** is one of the jocks and **Dave**, known as **Izza**, is the other and club manager **Barry Palmer** is actually into Northern himself.

They get about 100 people in most Thursdays for a measly 40 nupes between the hours of 1-12.30. Music is mostly *Tamla* and oldies although they'll play anything so long as it is Soul. Now hands up those of you who think I've forgotten to give you the name of the club? Well yah boo to you lot because I didn't forget . . . **Tim**, the twit, did!

Listen Arguement, I want another letter sitting on my desk in less than the time it takes to lick a stamp — and SEND ME THE NAME OF THE CLUB . . . what have I done to deserve this job, I've been a good boy, I help old ladies across the street . . . I love my dear old mother . . .