

# Raves, raves, raves!

1977 has brought such a cascade of good material from British record companies that even with the best will in the world it is not always possible to give them all as many mentions as they deserve.

One year we're moaning that there's a shortage of good new material, and the next we're complaining that there's more than we can cope with! That's show business I guess, but as a departure this time, I thought I'd scan over what's on offer and extend "Dave's Raves" to make sure that everything that deserves it gets a look in.

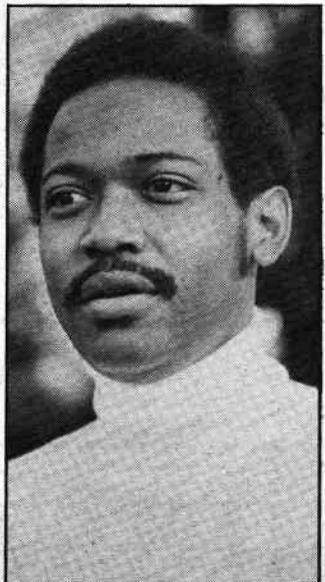
**1 Latimore** "Somethin' 'Bout Cha" TK

Always remembered for his staggering Dade outing of "The Power & The Glory", **Benny Latimore** comes up here with one of the neatest, coolest tricks of the year, and like all trendy great Soul sides, its real power and glory may not at first hearing seem all that apparent. But they're there OK, and in quantity, and this may well turn out to be one of those sides that in the 80s remind us all of the mid-70s!

Not yet issued by RCA as a magic 45, it is however a track on his "It Ain't Where You Been" album. Also recorded by **Millie Jackson** on her "Lovingly Yours" LP which she moves to a slightly faster pace and which **Millie** handles in her usual way, but great though the song is in both versions, it's **Latimore's** that finally delivers the goods.

**2 Eddie Holman** "Time Will Tell" Salsoul

An incredible Northern side which if it weren't new would probably be the most sought after side on the Northern circuit! Although a B side, some enthusiastic effort from Northern jocks could easily ensure that it took off into the charts (and after all, haven't RCA issued enough



Eddie Holman

great sides for us by now to merit a real thumping Soul hit?), so I hope my raving might jog a few jocks into action.

The more I hear it the more convinced I become of its potential, and any Northern jock who is NOT playing this to death needs his marbles sorting out! **Eddie Holman's** super high falsetto rings out loud and true over a solid mixed chorus, and the end result is pure Soul magic.

For goodness sake don't let it become an in-demander after it's all too late. **John Bollen** will adore it.

**3 Roy Ayers Ubiquity** "Searching" Polydor

**Roy Ayers Ubiquity** have made three LPs to date, and each is worth getting, but this track is available on the LP that Polydor have issued in this country, "Vibrations", and it's a good start. In five years time it might well be that everybody knows the name of this group, but right now they'll have to look to Soul fans for their support in this country.

"Searching" is a groovy, nightclub style piece of modern musical decoration, but the whole LP is a richly inventive collection of avant-garde Soul, and, although it dips at times into the goodies bag of yesteryear, it does create a new vision that manages to fuse jazz and Soul into an ultra-modern cocktail. No two tracks on any of his LPs seem to be alike, so you'll have to try the lot if you want to find out more about him and if he's to your taste.

Not only do **Roy Ayers Ubiquity** have talent, but they have original talent, and that's a pretty rare commodity these days.

**4 Tata Vega** "Blame It On The Sun" Motown

Written by **Stevie Wonder** and **Syreeta Wright**, this is an altogether captivating ballad that not only has good lyrics, but good melody too.

Although well read by **Tata** (although the strings do tend just a shade too much towards the cinematic for my taste), the overall production is SO good that one perhaps wonders if, because of this, **Tata** is quite as good a singer as they manage to make her sound. Time will tell, but in the meantime hear this and judge for yourself.

**5 Lady Flash** "Upfront" RSO

The B side of their latest single (and the less said about the top deck the kinder!), this is a stirring and rousing number that is superbly orchestrated and which the trio handle with equal ease and skill. **Reperata** has hit big in the past, and I feel certain that this new line up will eventually repeat the formula.

Strangely dated sort of "show" quality about it, but although it may take a few spins to get to you, I think it will gain a following in time. Classy.

**6 The Commodores** "Heaven Knows" Motown



## The Dave Godin Column

Drop the needle anywhere on their "Zoom — Commodores" LP, and you'll know why I continue to acclaim the constant demonstration that the **Commodores** give of their talent and quality. One of **Motown's** hottest and most potent acts. Varied, versatile and vibrant, they are always a pleasure to encounter, and "Heaven Knows" is my current favourite from their quality repertoire.

**7 Weather Report** "Birdland" CBS

From their "Heavy Weather" LP, it may well be that many will indeed find this track heavy weather since it is so jazz influenced that some might not describe it as Soul at all, but, fusions happen and are important, and if nothing else, the driving beat will be familiar enough to Soul fans as will the hard brass on it.

Weird, and perhaps of only limited appeal, but if you fancy something different and out of the ordinary, then this may suit you. Certainly more gutsy and basic than so much of the ersatz disco "Soul" that oozes around of late.

**8 Tony Etoria** "I Can Prove It" GTO

**Chris Hill** has been on to this one from the start, and although it is

disco Soul, it's disco Soul of a very superior sort (which is not unlikely to be connected with the fact that it was produced by **Papa Don Schroeder** to whom Soul fans will always owe a debt of genuine gratitude), but is infectious too, and newcomer **Tony Etoria** handles the vocals very well indeed. Try it and see.

**9 Joe Tex** 'Ain't Gonna Bump (With No Big Fat Woman)' Epic

Excellent and exciting, if all disco records were of this quality what a scene it would be! But the difference is, not only is this a disco side, but it happens to have Soul as well. Don't miss it.

**10 Patti Austin** "Say You Love Me" CTI

**Patti Austin** has chalked up a good, if erratic, track record over the years, and this side (though heavily influenced by **Minnie Riperton's** "Loving You" — a side that affects me in exactly the same way as it does **Richard Pryor**), it really merits a listen from Soul fans, and could be a surprise hit given the necessary air-spins (which I suspect will generally not be forthcoming).

Good to see **Patti** with a company like CTI however, because I think they'll appreciate her and promote her with understanding skill.

**11 Booker T & the M.G.s** "Sticky Stuff" Asylum

From the LP "Universal Language" (which I had hoped would have liner notes written in Esperanto), this is a slice of moving funk that is irresistibly infectious. Played with all the artistry and groovy skill we can safely take for granted from **Booker & the M.G.s**, it's instrumental soulfulness that will have very, very wide appeal (and remember, "Green Onions" was one of the biggest selling Soul sides of all time in the UK, and still never made the charts!).

**12 Natalie Cole** "Party Lights" Capitol

Fast and exciting, this really should be pulled off her "Unpredictable" LP as a future 45. It's a quality item that **Natalie** handles superbly, and it sounds like a hit to me.

**13 Yvonne Elliman** "Hello Stranger" RSO

One of the true all-time Soul classics gets a surprisingly overdue revival via **Yvonne Elliman**, and believe it or not, it's not half bad. Sensibly sticking closely to the original **Barbara Lewis** concept with prominent organ and chorus, it is one of those songs that is SO good that it is virtually unruinable.

**Yvonne** does a skilful job (better than the **Capitols** (or **Three Caps**) did), and it's almost as if she's aware of the high regard that Soul fans have for this song and is anxious not to offend anyone's sensitivities.

It is by no means an easy song to sing, but she turns in a first-rate reading, and I'd like to see it hit for her. (As I'm sure **Barbara Lewis** would too, since she wrote it!)

**14 Darrell Banks** "Angel Baby" Atlantic

Northern Soul always was a very masculine and virile type sound,

and few epitomise all those qualities more than this side from the late **Darrell Banks**.

Hard to predict what fate a record like this can expect in 1977, but it's hard to resist its potent nostalgia values, and all too easy to forget that when first recorded only a handful of fans welcomed it in this country. As I listened to it, I could almost detect the faint whiff of Brut Aftershave in the air! Great stuff.

**15 James Wells** "Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow" Polydor

One of **Ian Levine's** best productions / compositions to date, and one that has real hit potential. **James Wells** has a very interesting voice with a good range and the power to project himself to his audience. A disco natural, but I'd have thought radio jocks would have warmed to it as well. Still, it's never too late.

SO, THESE are some of the sounds that I'm currently enjoying, and with so many good releases coming at us from all directions these days, it's more important than ever to make sure none fall by the wayside simply because we are sometimes overwhelmed by the richness of what's about.

## Run-out groove

EVERYONE who went to the 60s Revival Night organised by **John Wilkinson**, and held at Nottingham's riverside "Brit" club, will readily confirm what a huge success it was, and not only from the point of view of hearing well-loved oldies again, but hearing them in the context of a well-loved venue, and surrounded by familiar faces from the past too!

Seems like all the old-time stalwarts of the Northern Soul scene had made a special effort to get along for this event, and I feel certain that once word gets round about how good this one was, then even more people will get along for the next one which **John** tells me he is already organising. (Watch this column for details!)

Not only was it a real pleasure to meet **John Wilkinson**, but old friends like **Denny** (looking not a second older than he did when I met him four years ago, except that the beard he now sports so sensibly makes him look even handsomer!), and **Derek Allen** who you will remember used to host a first-rate show called "Soul Over Nottingham" on the local BBC station.

I also met for the second time, **Dave Clegg** who is the sort of guy who forms the solid back-bone of Britain's loyal Soul following and met at long last (although we had formerly exchanged letters) **Viv** and **Radio** whose association with Northern Soul goes back to the days before it was called that!

All in all the event was a total success, and I look forward to going to future revivals at the "Brit", and meeting more old friends from that golden era of the UK Soul scene.

ANOTHER huge success has been the achievement of the **XL5 Soul**



**Roadshow** and as our photo shows, when Soul music fills the air, happiness always follows!

Organised by **Kevill** (aka **Kev Hill**), (he's the guy with the headphones around his neck), and his mate **Del** (he's speaking into the mike), their 100% Soul format and success takes place at the Hermit Youth Centre in Brentwood. You can join at the door if you wish, but you must be over 16. Train to Brentwood, or buses 151, 251, 721, 247 or 379 will get you there (it's near Wilson's Corner).

I hope that I'll be able to check it out when next I'm down that way, but you can take my word for it that if it's Soul you're into, **Kevill** and **Del** will satisfy your needs! Next date is May 7th, starting at 8 p.m.

THE OLDIES market in Britain is pretty well established nowadays, but although it has publications devoted to chronicling labels and their output, for sheer attention to detail nobody can touch the Americans in this field who have the advantage of being right on the scene, and often in a position to meet and interview former artists in the R&B, Rock & Roll and Soul idiom:

This was all brought home to me when I recently received a copy of the American publication "Time Barrier Express" which, apart from containing lots of old and rare photos, also reproduces original labels and discographies (the latest containing an exhaustive listing of the Ace label). And the prices that are paid for some oldies in the States!

If you are interested in the oldies and collecting scene, then "Time Barrier Express" is a must, and if you wish to subscribe then for 90p you can receive a sample copy from the magazine's UK representative **Phil Lynskey**, 5 Sunroyd Hill, Horbury, Wakefield, W. Yorks. Well worth every penny.

I WAS recently digging through some oldies of my own, and played the immaculate "Be Thankful For What You Got" by **William DeVaughn**, and although I've never mentioned it in print before, I must go on record as stating that in my opinion the lyrics are intentionally ironic, and not to be

taken in a literal sense at all.

Of course I realise that I might be giving **DeVaughn** the composer credit for more than he intended, but if you've got the side (and who hasn't?), then listen to it again and "hear" it as a wry send-up on conventional social morality, and it takes on an altogether different hue. What a great side it is anyway!

INFLATION continues to eat into the amount of cash available to spend on records, and a recent report from BPI showed that in real terms people are spending no more on these items than they did four years ago. 45s and Cassettes have held steady, but LPs, and par-

ticularly Cartridges, have both taken a dip in 1976.

MEANWHILE over at RCA, their special Disco Division looks all set to ensure RCA gets the Soul hits that are long overdue for that cascade of worthy Soul product that's been aimed at us from them these past eight months or so. Run by **Greg Lynn** and **Sally Ormsby**, their bright and readable newsletters convey a degree of enthusiasm for the product that is both welcome and refreshing.

• Until next time then — keep the faith. Right on now!

## SATURDAYS at NORTHAMPTON

8-12 at LINGS FORUM  
(2nd and 4th week each month)  
April 23, May 14 and 28

## SATURDAY CELLAR SOUL

8 pm-2 am at SHAFTESBURY  
(Royal Chase Hotel)  
(1st and 3rd week of month)  
May 7 and 21.

## "BEACON" ALLNIGHTER

CANCELLED until  
further notice. New  
dates to be announced.

## OXFORD EVENTS

at Cowley  
Friday 20 May 8-1  
Tuesday 7 June — ALLDAYER

## SUMMER SEASON PREVIEWS

WORTHING — Fri 27 May — 8-1  
SOUTHSEA — Thurs. 2 June — 8-1  
FREE TO MEMBERS details available.

## MANCHESTER — SUNDAYS

We regret that our Club Nights at Romanoffs have been discontinued and apologise for any inconvenience.

For details of Membership, Badges, Pen Friends, Free Tickets, Travel Info, Club News, send s.a.e. to:

**INTER CITY SOUL CLUB (UK)**  
P.O. BOX 28, SHREWSBURY (0903-47679)