emperments Turn To Joy

It is a good thing to laugh. Next to a good soul-stirring prayer is a good laugh, especially if it is the re-

sult of honest good humor.

For honest good humor is the oil and wine of a fun-loving event, and there is no jovial companionship equal to that where the jokes are small compared to the abundant laughter.

Other than drinks and sandwiches, the Comedy Zone, located in the Radisson Plaza Hotel, offered plenty of laughter. The laugh-aminute time was headlined by Willie Stratford, Jr., a wiry framed mass of witty energy, who, only a year and one- half ago, first per-formed at the Comedy Zone as an opening act for Pat Paulsen.

Since that time, however, he has traveled throughout the country painting upturned faces on people like sunshine does to flowers, and last weekend was no exception. For 45 minutes each show, and there were two a night, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Willie transformed, even, the gloomiest temperaments to joy with sponta-neous comedic antics, along with his hilarious spillings of "Love Song to Connie Chung", "Willie Damm" and "Paul Harvey

At this writing, Stratford is back onthe road, but whenever he appears in the vicinity, do yourselves a favor and spend a glorified evening of fun and laughter with a truly funny man.

The opening concert of Spirit Square's Simmering Jazz series was headlined by jazz musician and composer Michael Franks, in a recent performance that ended with two rousing encores.

For over ten years Michael Franks has been quietly building a body of work that puts him squarelthe leading edge of popular music's on going experiment with sty-listic synthesis.

Frank has built a reputation for his emotive, highly visual compo-

His first album, "The Art of Tea," was released in 1976 and since then he has recorded eight other albums, including the most recent release, "The Camera Never Lies." Songs like "When I Give My

Love To You", Queen of the Un-derground", and "Island Life", were approvingly recognized by the full-house audience whichgave credence to the songs' popu-larity.

If the opening series of Simmering Jazz is any indication of how well the other segments will be received, get your tickets early or miss the fun.

Everything that looks to the future elevates human nature, even to the point of anticipating Char-



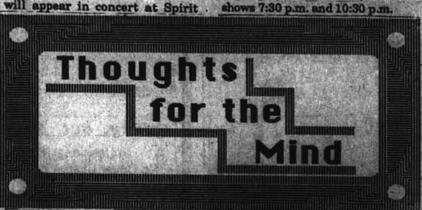
lotte After Dark, Friday night, while drinking coffee, Friday morning. The next two events though, allow a little more time to

prepare. Branford Marsalis, the highly regarded saxophone player and CBS recording artist who has enjoyed chart-topping success with album releases in both jazz and classicalfields, is coming to Charlotte.

The Branford Marsalis Quartet will appear in concert at Spirit

Square, Wednesday, November 11, at 8:15 PM. The concert will be filmed for a pay-cable TV special to air sometime next year and will also be released on home video.

Collaboration is how it is billed. A harmonius touch with the sensual is what it will be, when George Benson and Earl Klugh grace the stage at Ovens Auditorium, Satur-day night, November 28, for two



Proud To Be A Black Man

I am a twenty year old man living in a world full of despair and dis-

A world which doesn't want to acknowledge the success of the 'Black Man', but does so discreetly because of the Constitution. A world where we can send a man or woman to the moon, but can't control discrimination here on earth. In spite of all the world's disappointments, I AM PROUD TO BE A

BLACK MAN.

The question may be asked "If all these problems exist in the world, how can you be proud to be a black man?"

I must also refer to yesterday's leaders, such as Mary McCleod Bethune, who is responsible for one of our oldest black institutions, Bethune Cookman University. Martin Luther King Jr., who broke the mold on Civil Rights and became the first black to have a national holiday. Furthermoe, we must respect the courage and trust that Rev. Jesse Jackson is trying to implify through his struggle for equality as well as the presidency of the United States.

But most importantly, I'm PROUD TO BE A BLACK MAN because I'm a child of God and any child of God is worth being proud of.

-Adrian Stowe

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Moscow Ballet, Saturday-Monday, November 7-9 at 8 p.m.; Charlotte Coliseum.

Big Bird Goes Hollywood/Sesame Street Live, Thursday-Saturday, November 12-14; Charlotte Coliseum.

•Grover Washington concert, Friday, November 20 at 8 p.m., Ovens Auditorium.

•Rapp Concert, Saturday, November 21; Charlotte Collseum.

•Roy Ayers, Spirit Square NCNB Performance Place; Call 376-8883 for more information.

"Mama, I Want To Sing" (musical), Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 at 8 p.m.; Ovens Auditorium.

-George Benson and Earl Klugh, Saturday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m. and II p.m. at Ovens Auditorium.

John Blake; Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21 at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.; Johna-

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t takes time to be the best.