

# Gloomy Temperments 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 result 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-a-minute time was headlined by Willie Stratford, Jr., a wiry framed mass of witty energy, who, only a year and one-half ago, first performed 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 spontaneous comedic antics, along with his hilarious spillings of "Love Song to Connie Chung", "Willie Damm" and "Paul Harvey".

At this writing, Stratford is back on the 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 square on the leading edge of popular music's on going experiment with stylistic synthesis.

Frank has built a reputation for his emotive, highly visual compositional style.

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 Underground", and "Island Life", were approvingly recognized by the full-house audience which gave credence to the songs' popularity.

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 classical fields, 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 harmonious touch with the sensual is what it will be, when George Benson and Earl Klugh grace the stage at Owens Auditorium, Saturday night, November 28, for two shows 7:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.



Proud To Be A Black Man

I am a twenty year old man living in a world full of despair and discontent. 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. Furthermore, we must respect the courage and trust that Rev. Jesse Jackson is trying to imply 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., Owens Auditorium.
- Rapp Concert, Saturday, November 21; Charlotte Coliseum.
- 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.; Owens Auditorium.
- George Benson and Earl Klugh, Saturday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. at Owens Auditorium.
- John Blake; Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21 at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.; Johnathan's.

The doors of the City are hinged on welcome for the many alumni students and friends of Johnson C. Smith University, this weekend.

ADVERTISEMENT

God said, "I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." Isaiah 42:8

"They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images: Ye are our gods." Isaiah 42:17

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