

## FRESH TALK OVERTIME

by Dick Baldwin (NY Rep)

The Four Freshmen Society scored **Five Stars** at "Fresh Talk '04." Thanks Big Band Bob, Curtis, Vince, Brian, Greg, Ray, Ross and Flan. And, the questions from the SRO Grand Rapids FFS ran the gamut from fun things to the academic. Nice job Society!

BUT, because of the long list of involved inquiries of the nine-person panel, the Frosh plus IVI's Dina Sheets-Roth, the "Script" was cut short in spots. Apologies to those Fresh folks with more questions/conversation at the end of the meeting - Ross & Flan capping the 5th such session via "And So It's Over," words and trombone solo. The two-hour talk was forced "off the air" by the anxious hotel catering crew, pressing the issue of taking over the room to set up for that evening's banquet/concert.

Thanks to the Morrisons for scheduling Fresh Talk at the new Saturday hour of 1:30 PM (not the former customary 10:00 AM). FF Edition 22 was especially alert as punctuated by the learned answers by Curtis and Brian (that's per the Dean himself)..

Recorded highlights were hits, too. Early in the proceedings a CD track, "I Get Along Without You Very Well," from Curtis' new *Lost Soul* album attracted attention. The work is a tribute to the late Chet Baker. Curtis follows Greg's *Culmination* disc with a tremendous piece of work on mostly Chestnut Tunes. Oh Yes, the Freshmen do jazz, don't they?

Later in the program Brian unveiled a taste of the next Freshmen CD still in the studio. He chose "It's All Right With Me" from the ten titles already edited. The album is not named at this date for (near) future release. The music fulfilled the usual FT feature (something new from Eichenberger Studios that the group is refining). Check some of these script cuts -

1. Diana Krall bassist Paul Keller led a quartet Friday night before the Freshmen took the stage. Paul's performance was definitely Uptown.
2. And, Ms. Krall. The critics say "She's really not that good. Too good looking. Jazz singers aren't supposed to look like that." There's more from the sports writer - "Young tennis star Maria Sharaspova didn't play that well in winning Wimbledon - too attractive." Does this point to the Four Freshmen missing DownBeat's Hall of Fame selection because they're too handsome?
3. If the Four Freshmen were ever to be the Five Freshmen, add Sue Raney.
4. There are two b&w films - *Orchestra Wives* and *Sun Valley Serenade* featuring the Glenn Miller Orchestra. Glenn and the boys, plus the Modernaires, were right on in most instances. However, why was Jackie Gleason on bass and Caesar Romero on piano? George Montgomery was OK on trumpet as the lead in *Wives*. Billy May and Ray Anthony

were obviously "real" in the Miller trumpet section. The scenes flash by quickly, so it's not easy spotting other "plants." Try it during one of those late night flick showings!

5. Trumpeter Dan McMillion (FFS member from Tampa) thankfully brought his horn, but played sparingly during the Thursday night free-for-all. Not to upstage the other musicians, he cut loose on only a few mild screeches.
6. October 8 is COUNT BASIE DAY in New York City. Bill Basie deserves it!
7. Thanks Curtis for remembering your flugel horn. Great Sound!
8. Don't forget SOUNDS OF SINATRA, two hours of top shelf radio entertainment. This weekly, syndicated program with veteran DJ Sid Mark has been sighted in these pages, previously. It's worth a repeat. The smooth show has a professional glow re days gone by. Sid Mark is the best in the biz and represents all of the former radio personnel who knew what they were doing on the air when Frank and his Capitol Tower friends dominated AM. You don't even have to like the Chairman, but are you interested in every great piece of jazz and ballad music every recorded? Everything of quality is part of "Sounds," including guests and all of the real musicians. Recently, the Pastels (Stan Kenton's group) backed Frank on "Don't Cry Joe." FFS! Get with the program! The epitome of programming lives.
9. September 4 - The Four Freshmen w/the Woody Herman Ork at the Kavil Theater, Thousand Oakes, CA. KCLU-FM 10th Anniversary. Big!
10. Thanks Jack & Mary for "The Talk Of The Town." We talked the talk Saturday afternoon and the Freshmen walked the walk Saturday evening.

