

Editorial 3-148
NPR a hit in Columbia

**'Whad'ya Know' was
live at Koger Center**

Humorist Michael Feldman was in Columbia last Saturday and he brought his popular National Public Radio quiz and variety show "Whad'Ya Know?" to the Koger Center. Or, as the Jewish radio personality persisted in calling it, the Kosher Center.

South Carolina ETV President David Crouch told the Koger Center audience that 35,000 South Carolinians listen to "Whad'Ya Know?" each Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Obviously, many of the Columbia audience members count themselves in that loyal number, as they were well schooled in the show's routine. For example, it is introduced each week with a short news-that-isn't monologue by Mr. Feldman, followed by the question, "Whad'Ya Know?" to which the audience is supposed to respond, "Not much. You?" Mr. Feldman was so delighted with the idea of changing the "you" to "y'all" that the audience went along: "Not much. Y'all?"

(Being polite Southerners, they didn't point out that this is not grammatical, as "y'all" is a plural that would not ordinarily be used in addressing an individual.)

The show includes performances by the show's talented jazz trio — John Thulin on piano, Jeff Hamann on bass and Clyde Stubblefield on drums. There is also banter with announcer Jim Packard and a reverse Q&A with the audience in which members submit questions on index cards for Mr. Feldman to ask them.

There are also interviews with locals who can give a flavor for the locale, especially the politics. Brad Warthen, long-time editorial page editor of The (Colum-

bia) State (who recently lost his job in a staff cutback), had a field day making fun of Gov. Mark Sanford with the unabashedly liberal Feldman.

Mr. Feldman said he had heard a compromise had been reached about how to properly display the Confederate flag. From now on, he said, it would hang from the gun rack in the governor's Ford F-150.

The centerpiece of the show is the Whad'Ya Know quiz, in which an audience member is paired up to answer questions with an outside caller. As it came time to choose a contestant, people sprang from their seats in a scene reminiscent of the classic game show, "Let's Make a Deal." In what may have been a first, the telephone contestant was actually an audience member, too. He called in on his cell phone.

As the contestants vied for such prizes as Columbia's signature "Famously Hot" tee shirts and coffee mugs, they learned:

■ Gov. Mark Sanford requires his staff to use both sides of their Post-it Notes to save money.

■ Playing Yahtzee is a crime in the state of South Carolina as it is a game of chance.

■ The highway from Aiken to Columbia has recently been named the Hydrogen Highway.

There were the usual comments and questions about grits, which Mr. Feldman insisted he had been served in loaf form, and he entertained the audience by trying to pronounce various place names in South Carolina like Horry County.

We don't know what influential folks brought Michael Feldman to South Carolina, but we hope he'll be back again. (If Gov. Sanford will stamp his passport, that is.)

If you missed the show, you can listen to it by going to the Web site www.not-much.com.

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