This week has been a disastrous one for the free radio stations in the Merseyside area. All the stations currently operating were raided over the weekend Sat/Sun 10th/11th Nov. by members of the Department of Trade and Industry. Storeton Community Radio have been advertising their 14s-18s Night-out at MA BAKER's Club, Conway Street, Birkenhead on 19th November. Admission is £1 and they will feature the SCR disco, raffles, etc. Listeners are urged to turn up and lend their support, and, as with all previous nights-out organised by SCR, it will definitely take place, no matter what might happen in the meantime. Central Radio International have also been advertising a night-out over the weekend. It is to be held at the SANDON HOTEL, Oakfield Road, Anfield, Liverpool from 7:30pm-llpm on Thursday 29th November and will feature the CRI disco, draws, raffles and buffet. It is not known whether this function will now take place.

CENTRAL RADIO INTERNATIONAL 1386kHz: 32, Bankfield Road, Old Swan, Liverpool L13 SBL.

The station opened at 9am on Saturday, and the DJs heard were: 9am-llam Robbie Ford, 11am-lpm Dave Smith; 1pm-3pm Jeff Stone; 5pm-7pm Ian Phillips; 7pm - ?? Phil Davies.

The start of the Phil Davies Show was heard, but the station had gone from the air by 8:50pm, when I listened out for the close-down announcement. Presumably the DT&I raid took place during Phil's show, and the latter passed the news to SCR. The station was not heard on Sunday, but it was not known for sure that they had been raided until the SCR announcement was made.

RADIO MERSEYWAVES 1179kHz & 94.8MHz: 23, Birnam Road, Wallasey, Merseyside L44 9AY.

It is not known whether this station played continuous music between 10am and 11am on MW only this Sunday, as the previous week, but John Freeman "officially" opened up at 11am. At 11:15am, he handed over to "Mr T", saying that he would be back on the air with his own show between noon and 3pm. When checked at 1:03pm, the station had gone from the air, and were not heard for the rest of the day. The station did not appear on their FM frequency at 6pm. Paul Jay apparently rang SCR to confirm that Radio Merseywaves had been raided, adding that the DF&I took not only the transmitter and decks but also the record collection together with the station format and notes from the station's notice boards.

STORETON COMMUNITY RADIO 1026kHz; 23, The Meadow, Woodchurch Estate, Birkenhead, Mersey-This station appeared to be going from strength to strength side L49 8EX and proved both that the transmitter was capable of 24-hour operation and that the staff were well able to cope with the hours. Over the weekend a determined effort was made to sort out their schedule, and heard were: - SATURDAY: 9am-llam Brian "C"; llam-lpm Uncle Ern; lpm-3pm Brian "C" standing in for Little Di; 3pm-5pm Joe Williams; 5pm-7pm Alan Ross; 7pm-9pm John Sniff; 9pm-llpm Brian "C"; llpm-Midnight John Sniff; Midnight-lam Keith the Chief and Andy Sloan: SUNDAY: ??-noon Wayne Scott; Woon-lpm Little Di; lpm-2pm Sandie Babe; 2pm-3pm Little Di & Sandie Babe At 3:30pm, Sandie Babe was on the air listing the DJ line-up to 3am Monday, but this was during what was announced as the Paplo Brad Show (3pm-5pm). By 4pm the station had disappeared. They were back on the air at 6:15pm, but signal strength had dropped from S41 to S2, and was suffering some breakthrough of Continental stations. Apart from cutting the TOP 30 show to less records, programming was back to normal. Between 10pm and midnight, Keith the Chief told of the raids on Central Radio and Merseywaves. He went on to say that the DT&I had followed up with a raid on one of SCR's "back-up" locations, which was used as the SCR workshop, and that the station had lost a lot of valuable equipment, including their new Tx, and am FM Tx that was being constructed. His sympathies went out to Martin "C" who had been working on the transmitters all weekend. They announced plans to close-down at midnight for about three or four days, advising listeners to keep their ears open on the hour every hour for their return, and assuring them that the night-out on 19th November would still take place

Pirates hit by timely raids

GOVERNMENT trading officers have pulled the plug on two Merseyside pirate radio stations.

A round of lightning raids has taken Central Radio and Storeton Community Radio off the air—and more "hits" could follow soon.

Both stations were well established and led a new miniboom in illegal broadcasting, it was claimed last night.

ting, it was claimed last night.
Central, based in Bootle,
had been beaming out rock
and pop music, featuring
local groups, for almost two
years.

Storeton Community, based in Birkenhead, also featured pop broadcasting 24 hours a day.

The well-timed raids by officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, backed up by police, caught both stations in the middle of broadcasting.

Illegal home made transmitters and radio equipment were taken away—but "SCR" was broadcasting again within hours.

One Wirral pirate who operates Atlantis Radio claimed the raids were well organised—but would not frighten off the new boom in illegal broadcasters.

organised—but would not frighten off the new boom in illegal broadcasters. "There are five stations operating in the Birkenhead area alone," he said. "It seems to be most popu-

"It seems to be most popular here, although they are springing up all over the area. We can't see why they should be so determined to have a go at us when we are obviously so popular."

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed officers had been operating in the area following a raid on a large pirate station in Manchester.