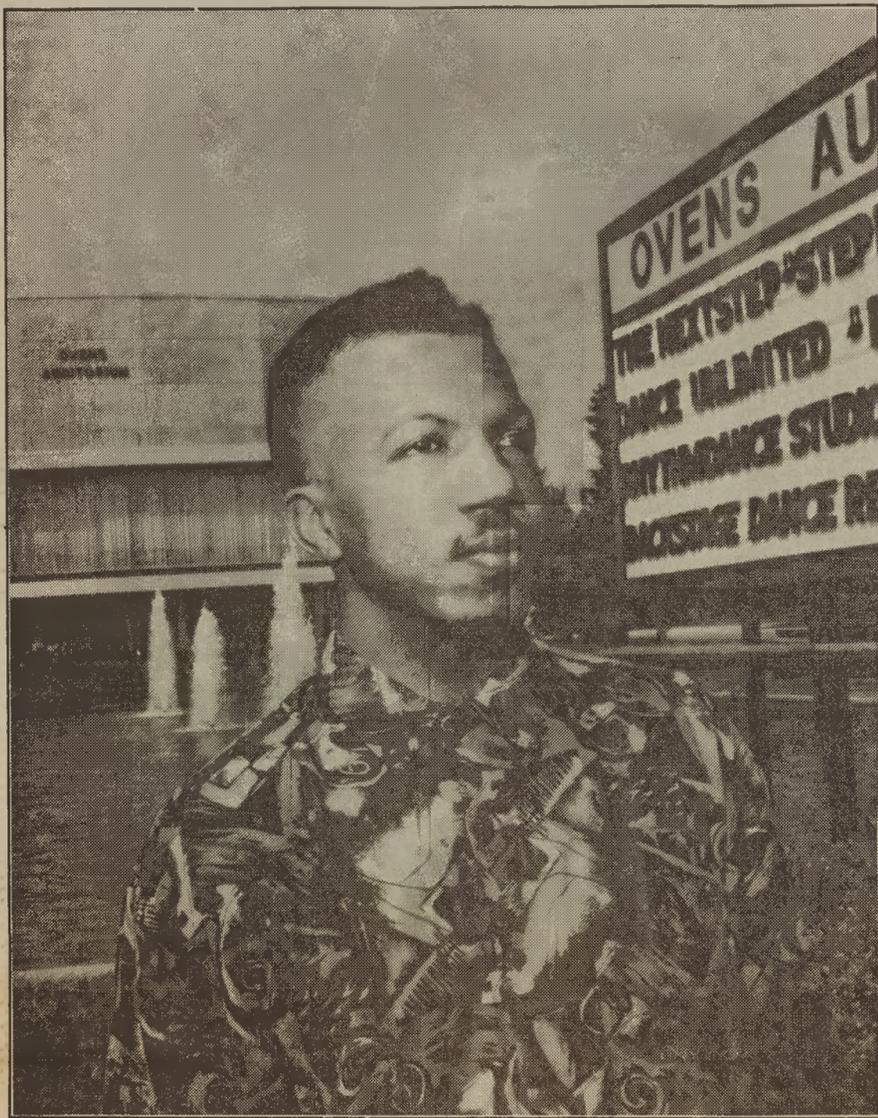


Black Hopes To Promote



Vincent Black pauses in front of Ovens Auditorium, thinking about future events.

By Winfred B. Cross THE CHARLOTTE POST

Vincent Black has dreams of filling every major venue in Charlotte with black entertainers. Getting Janet Jackson in the Charlotte Coliseum would be the fulfillment of that dream.

It probably will not happen this summer, but don't count Black out. He hopes to have

Aces Entertainment Group -- a proposed entertainment conglomerate -- up and running before the summer's over.

According to Black, Aces will be a company that specializes in artist promotion, development and management.

"Because I have contacts with Columbia Records and Pendulum Records, I decided to start off with artist representation and management,"

said the 24-year old. "Actually, a friend of mine is at Pendulum so that shouldn't be much of a problem. Right now I'm working with an r&b, hip-hop and funk male vocal group called Comin' Correct. We're in the studio now and something should be happening soon."

Once fully staffed, Black plans to divide Aces into three groups -- entertainment, enterprise and invest-

ment. Any persons interested in the entertainment field can join.

The entertainment branch will handle artist management, development and concert promotions.

The enterprise branch will handle public relations and will allow members to invest in Aces projects.

The investment group will provide funding for Aces projects.

Those who join Aces will get a handbook that spells out the programs in greater detail, a membership card and access to a hotline to keep them abreast of the company's activities.

But bringing major artists to Charlotte is Black's ultimate goal.

"I've been in contact with Creative Entertainment in L.A. to see how well the Jackson tour is coming along. I call them once every few weeks to follow-up on how it's coming," Black said. Even if I can't bring Janet to this area, she'll get here. But there is no major promoter in the area to get black acts here."

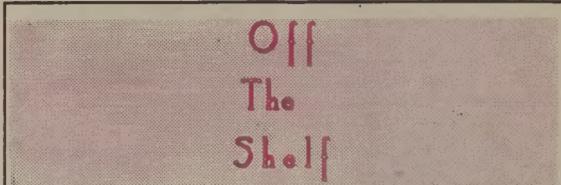
Black's comments ring true. There were no major black acts scheduled to come through Charlotte until the announcement of the Pepsi Summer Fest July 15 at the Charlotte Coliseum and Peabo Bryson at Ovens July 11.

Black created Aces in 1989 as Aces Entertainment. He was looking to buy a nightclub. But his efforts changed once he started researching the entertainment field.

"I did a lot of research, about three years' worth. I contacted the people I wanted to talk to directly. I talked to company presidents, vice presidents or directors instead of talking to someone who didn't know what they were talking about or what I wanted."

Black has talked to people from Sony Music, Columbia House Music Club, Black Radio Exclusive, Pollstar (a national concert hotline) and NationsBank. How does a 1991 UNC Charlotte psychology graduate get the attention of the presidents of such companies?

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Editor's note: For the next several weeks this column will feature book reviews from area elementary students. This week's reviews were done by students from Tryon Hills Elementary School.

Charlie and The Chocolate Factory

By Roald Dahl

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is about a boy who lives with his mother, father, and four grandparents.



They were poor people and couldn't afford much, but one day Mr. Willie Wonka from the Chocolate Factory was giving five tickets to those who found them. The people who found them could go to the chocolate factory for a whole day and get a lifetime's worth of chocolate. Charlie was the only one who listened at the factory and Mr. Willie Wonka gave him the factory when he passed on.

I liked the book because it had a lot of suspense and adventure. The author has a good imagination. I recommend this book for kids all over.

Rowan

By Robin McKinley

Rowan is about a girl who wants a dog, but she doesn't know what kind of dog she wants. The dog she gets is a whippet and she is finally happy. I read this book to a 2-year-old and she liked it because the pictures were pretty and because it was about dogs and she likes dogs.

Kelly Harkey 6th grade

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe.

By C. S. Lewis

The book I read was the "Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe."



It's about this magic wardrobe & these kids called Lucy, Edmund, Peter & Susan. They get in the wardrobe and find out there's a magical land called Narnia inside where they meet a fawn and a beaver. They also meet Aslan, the king of Narnia. They free Narnia from the curse of the witch. It's a wonderful story. So if you're looking for a way to escape to a magic land read "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe."

Jami Paden 6th grade

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The Movie Column

By Winfred B. Cross

"Menace II Society" • ☆ 1/2

Stars: Tyrin Turner, Larenz Tate and Jada Pinkett Produced by Allen and Albert Hughes Rated R: Strong Violence, Profanity

A Korean store owner tries to hurry two blacks out of his store for no other reason than because they are black.

One of the young men becomes irate and starts to argue with the store owner, while his partner drinks a 40 ounce in the background.

Shots ring out and the store owner lies dead. His widow goes berserk and starts screaming. The youth takes her in the back, grabs the video tape that would prove his guilt, then shoots her several times.

If that sounds like an account of something that's happened in the news recently, it probably is. However, the description serves as the

opening to the new film "Menace II Society," a wickedly violent slice of life from New Line Cinema that opens Friday.

The film is masterfully directed by 20-year-old twin brothers Allen and Albert Hughes. The Hughes brothers set out to show how hard it is to be black and grow up in America, especially in the Watts section of South Central Los Angeles. They get their point across with endless strings of profanity, fist-fights by the dozens and gun battles that would put the gun fights in "Posse" to shame.

The story centers around Caine, portrayed by Tyrin



Caine (Turner) shows Anthony (Doster) how to hold a gun in scene from "Menace II Society."

Turner (Kickdrum in Janet Jackson's "Rhythm Nation" video). He has just graduated from high school and reached his 18th birthday, two achievements that most black men don't make in South Central L.A. His father Tat (the always wonderful Samuel L. Jackson) is a vi-

scious drug dealer who's killed in a deal gone bad. His mother is a junkie who O.D.s. That turn of events sends him to live with his grandparents. They are a loving pair (Arnold Johnson and Marilyn Coleman) but are growing tired of Caine's disobedient and disruptive be-

havior. Caine's grandfather is also annoyed with his friendship with O-Dog (Larenz Tate), the trigger man in the liquor store murder.

Caine's only real family is Pernell (Glenn Plummer) who is serving a life sentence with no parole. Pernell gives Caine his first taste of liquor

and teaches him how to hold a gun, for which Caine is grateful. So, Caine decides to take care of Pernell's girlfriend Ronnie ("A Different World's" Jada Pinkett) and her cute six-year-old son Anthony (Jullian Roy Doster) while Pernell sweats it out in jail.

That is the most meaningful thing Caine does in the film. After his cousin is shot by gang members, O-Dog convinces him to seek vengeance by blowing away the guilty parties. After the brutal hit, Caine becomes useless, selling drugs, stealing cars and killing without fear.

His character is outdone only by O-Dog, described as "young, black and don't give a f--k." O-Dog is ruthless, killing at will with no remorse. His greatest thrill is watching the video tape that can convict him of the store owner's death. O-Dog's only redeeming quality is that he is a true friend to Caine. But that friendship is destructive, influencing Caine to become a true hoodlum.

Although most will compare this film to John Singleton's magnificent "Boyz n' The Hood," a better comparison would be to Ernest Dick-

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