

## Sounds

## N.C. Mass Choir delivers a new CD

Continued from 5B

Mass Choir sounds more like an ensemble than mass choir. I like its sound, but it isn't very exciting.

That's not a bad thing, because there are some good selections. "Give Him A Chance" gives Evangelist Marilyn Turner a chance to

show off her impressive voice. "Home" features Gray and John P. Kee, as does the title song, both of which are done nicely.

Gray does all of the lead and background vocals on "Holy Ghost Power," an old-time shout song.

The rest of the songs are OK.

It's a bit low-key for my taste, but I think it's the best CD the group has done so far. Take a listen.

## Rating:

☆☆☆☆ Classic;

☆☆☆☆ Excellent;

☆☆☆ Good;

☆☆ Fair;

☆ Why?;

No stars given - A mess

## Comedy crew gets big laughs

Continued from 5B

around with the audience. Clair created an impromptu poem in response to a heckler who was telling the punch lines to his jokes. He appropriately titled the poem "Playa Hater."

Other comedians included Mike Epps and Mike B, who both appeared on the the Def Jam Comedy Show. Epps dazzled the crowd with his candid but hilarious imitations of the old, wise man on the corner sharing advice to the youngsters hanging on the street corners and the cripple drug dealer who always get caught by the cops during a drug raid. Mike B had the crowd in tears as he recited his parody of the R Kelly song "You Remind Me Of My Jeep."

According to Mike B "if you have long hair, you are a Cherokee. If you live far away from your mate, you are an Expedition. If you are sexually promiscuous, you are an Explorer."

ZooMan was the head liner. Originally from New Jersey and currently residing in Atlanta, he had various topics to talk about as he captured the audience and kept them laughing. ZooMan talked about the difference in speech, especially the slang used in the south.

"My boy told me was fozdabe (translation: suppose to be) at work but was too tired to make it today," he said.

He closed his act with a special rendition of Shakespeare telling the royal doctor of his misfortune of acquiring a sex-

ually transmitted disease. The crowd stood and roared with laughter with his closing comments. "Why should a man be cursed with the ability to breathe fire from his loins like a dragon," he said. "My final question Doc: to pee or not to pee?"

Bob Sumner, the associate producer of The Russell Simmons Def Comedy Jam, said the tour has successfully traveled throughout the United States and plans to go to the Caribbean Islands.

"My job is to find talent and share it with the world," adds Sumner. "As long I maintain consistency in my search for talent, Def Jam will continue to succeed."

## Blues tour stops at Graceland

Continued from 5B

Street.

For the more adventurous there's Green's Lounge, a Memphis juke-joint in not one of the best parts of town, or the Do Drop Inn near Clarksdale.

"I check out the places and meet the owners so they know what I'm doing," Pierson said. "Some people are better off on Beale Street than at Green's. That's as wild as they need to get."

Others long for the less beaten trail, spots like Graceland Too in Holly Springs, Miss. That's the home of Paul MacLeod and his 23-year-old son, Elvis Aaron Presley MacLeod. The pair spend their lives tracking the slightest mention of the king of rock 'n' roll in broadcast or print.

At Graceland Too, Elvis pictures and records coat the walls. Elvis bubble-gum trading cards, some with gum still attached, cover the ceiling,

and eight TVs with videotape recorders capture any news broadcasts or shows that might possibly mention Presley.

Racks of looseleaf binders with the Elvis notations dutifully recorded line one wall, and much of that knowledge is also stored on computer disc.

"Anyone who needs information about Elvis can come to us," said Elvis, his black hair appropriately molded into an Elvisesque hairdo.

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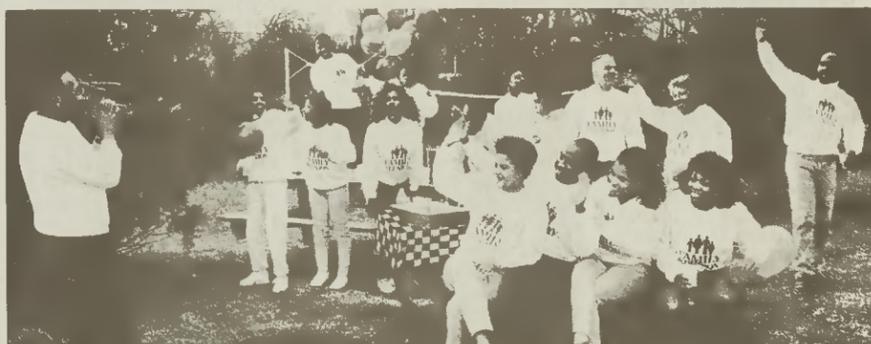
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