

LISA COLLINS

Behind The Scenes



Laughing it up: As if multi-media entertainment mogul Quincy Jones, who is profiled in Black Enterprise magazine, didn't have enough hands in the entertainment industry, he and partner David Saltzman have teamed with Laugh Factory founder Hamie Masada in the establishment of a national comedy restaurant chain.



JONES

Sites in New York, Las Vegas, Chicago, Atlantic City and Orlando are in the works. The Laugh Factory Funhouse will feature computer games, joke databases, stand-up comics, open mike nights, a museum, and a retail store. Masada said he was turned down by about 100 people before Jones and company stepped in. Now many of those who said no seem to have had a change of heart.

Bad timing for 'Bad Boys'? For what appears to be a variety of reasons, Columbia Pictures may be postponing the shooting of the sequel to last year's highly successful "Bad Boys," which starred Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. One can only guess what part exhaustion played in Lawrence's recent outburst - leading him to be taken into

police custody at a San Fernando Valley intersection. But it is clear that both actors have been on a tight summer schedule and with Smith's work in the film "Men in Black," reportedly running a little behind schedule, coupled with Lawrence's need to complete filming by the start of the season of "Martin," there seems to be little choice but to postpone work on the sequel.



SMITH

In other film news actor turned filmmaker Carl Franklin (who directed "Devil in a Blue Dress") has been tapped to write and direct a romantic thriller "Criminal Conversations," which will star Nicole Kidman.

Speaking out: "Remember that those things that you project for five seconds are about real people, and what you say follows us for the rest of our lives" are the words spoken by former Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden during the keynote address at media industry meeting in LA. "I don't think it is wrong for you, when you say these things to consider that the person has a kid who will hear it." Darden went on to

say with reference to his own daughter, whom she heard he reported became worried when a report stating that he



GOLDBERG

seemed to be breaking under the pressure of the trial.

Chasing the golden: In the latest remake of the classic children's story Cinderella, Whoopi Goldberg is reported in negotiation to play a plum role. No, she is not playing Cinderella. Instead, she would be cast as the fairy godmother, for which the production gets underway this fall. And no, it is not the same project that will feature Whitney Houston in the lead role. That project is being done by CBS.

By the way: Expect to see more of Lakers great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who is taking time out to promote his book, "Black Profiles in Courage," being published by William

Morrow & Company in October...Verve Records is coming out with a new compilation of Ella Fitzgerald's work "Love Songs: Best of the Verve Songbooks." The compilation includes ballads by Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, and other selected from Fitzgerald's massive 16 CD song book collection...Congratulations to Eddie Murphy, who will get a star this week on the Hollywood Walk of Fame...The hip hop nation is looking forward to the release of "Rap's New Generation," the latest from Wreckx-N-Effects. The album - designed as a salute to rap pioneers - marks their return after a four-year absence from the music scene.

Finally, Oprah Winfrey and her trainer Bob Greene are trumpeting their fall book, "Make the Connection: Ten Steps To A Better Body-And A Better Life." Just recently, the talk show queen led 1,000 people in stretching exercises at Chicago's Soldier Field after a wholesome breakfast buffet at the annual meeting of the American Booksellers Association.

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COCA-COLA "CITIZEN" OF THE MONTH

REV. CHARLES E. MACK

PASTOR,
Progressive Baptist Church



Most recently, Pastor Mack, as he is affectionately known by friends, church members and family, was a TORCHBEARER for the 1996 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY, and was recognized by Coca Cola at a lavish luncheon. Charlotte Hornets Commentator, Gil McGregor was guest speaker.

Pastor Mack was born in Chesterfield, South Carolina. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior in 1958 at the John G. Richards Industrial School for Negro Boys in Columbia, S.C. After experiencing the conversion he had a new look on life and a burden for his fellow man; mostly, for his people - - the plight of the poor.

After many toils and snares Pastor Mack came to Charlotte, and realized this was the place to be. He accepted the call to go into the ministry in 1961, then started his family. He promised the Lord that if He would give him a way to help his poor family, he would preach His Word. He did, and Pastor Mack did.

He set out on his perceived mission, to help the poor, be a champion for Christ, and feed the hungry. The full story is too indepth to tell but, Pastor Mack is Senior Pastor at Progressive Baptist, Adult Sunday School Teacher, Founder, Dalton Village Outreach Center, Saturday Missionary Outreach Trainer/Teacher and Wednesday Night Bible Teacher.

His community involvement includes: Mecklenburg Missionary - Board Member, CPCC - Board (International), Amay James Task Force - Board Member, Crisis Counseling Center - Affiliate; member of Neighborhood Arts and Humanities Consortium, American Baptist Assoc., Mount Peace Assoc., Reid Park Assoc., Rotary Club (honorary) and West Blvd. Coalition. He is Chaplin for the Charlotte Hornets(2yrs) and Charlotte Police. Promise Keepers Task Force Member Race Reconciliation, Gordon-Conwell Seminary - Advisory Bd. Member, Assoc and Recording Secretary for Minister's Conference #2, and member General Baptist Association. As you can see, he has constantly been a TORCHBEARER.

Pastor Mack is married to Connie, his soul mate, and they have four children.

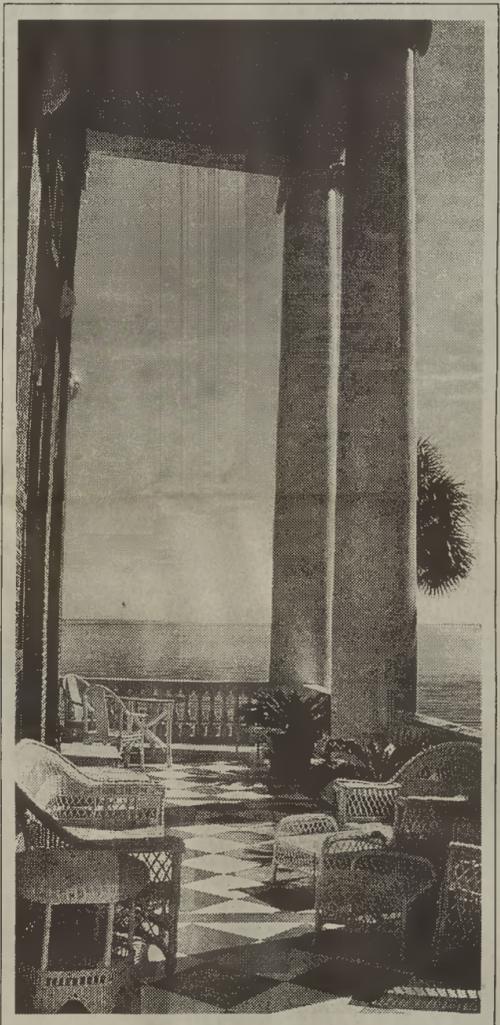
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