The Charlotte Post

1BARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

THURSDAY, July 25, 1996

1996______ | _______

Mac plans to stay in comedy for a long time

By Mark A. Pendergrass FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Bernie Mac tells you up front that he "ain't scared of you mutherf—-s." He made that clear in his sold-out performance Saturday at Ovens

Auditorium. And he ain't afraid to curse, either.

"I am a comedian and it is my job to tell jokes and make people laugh," Mac said backstage after his performance. "Like an actor...I act. I have a diversified list of material and I perform for children's shows, fundraisers, funerals, political events, etc. Over the years I've changed my act numerous times to satisfy my audience." Satisfy he did Saturday. From the start of his act to the final joke, the crowd laughed hysterically. His life experiences are the birth of a onehour comedy extravaganza.

Concert-goers departed from Ovens Auditorium mimicking Mac's words, facial expressions, and jokes. Known for his phases "kick it" and "I ain't scared of you...," Mac told the crowd he was extremely happy to be in Charlotte and wanted to "talk about things."

Family disputes, problems, living in lower class means, homosexuality – nothing's sacred with Mac. He drew his biggest laughs with jokes about "Ma-dear," the pet name for his grandmother. His description was much like how many of us view grandmothers – a big, wig-wearing woman with a flowered housecoat



Bernie Mac

60 minutes

humming church hymns, slid-

ing her feet across the floor as

she walks. The audience rolled

as he told stories of having to

turn out lights during thun-

derstorms and attend funer-

The audience was on the

Photo/Mark Pendergrass

edge of its seat and in tears for

"Bernie Mac gives a great

live performance...the jokes

about his father and Ma-dear

were the best I've heard in a

long time," said Victor Martin,

a Johnson C. Smith University

alumnus and New York native. "Whenever Bernie Mac comes to North Carolina, I will be there."

Before the show, Mac expressed his desire to remain in the business of comedy for as long as his fans will accept him. After 17 years of touring the comedy club circuit, he's carved a niche in the industry and plans on staying.

Mac has also done a little "sumpthin', sumpthin'" on the big screen as well. He had roles in movies such as "House Party 2," "Who's the Man," "Above the Rim" and "Friday."

More the thin and Triday. Mac recently filmed an episode of the UPN sitcom "Moesha" with singer/actress Brandy. He will be in Spike Lee's movie about the Million Man March, "Get on the Bus," Halle Berry's movie "Baps" and Ice Cube's new film "Player's Club." Also, his variety/comedy show "Midnight Mac" will return to television this season. Mac credits his appearances

Mac credits his appearances on "Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam" on HBO with the increase of national recognition. The show has helped improved the popularity of African-American comedians. He remembers the days of performing in white-owned clubs. "Like all the famous comedi-

ans, such as Bill Cosby, Flip Wilson, Whoopi Goldberg and Richard Pryor...I worked on my craft of comedy to get where I am" Mac said. "Now I want to branch out ..I'm in it to win it, not for a minute."

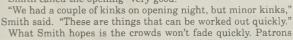
Mac also praised his wife and daughter as the main ingredi-See MAC Page 2B

Smith changing club scene with Harriston's

By Winfred B. Cross THE CHARLOTTE POST

Nate Smith has been promising a change in the Charlotte club scene for some time now. He delivered his promise Saturday with a bang. Or should I say 'da bomb.'

Or should I say 'da bomb.' Smith's MegaCom Productions, Inc. opened Harriston's On Cedar, a swanky night spot directly behind Ericsson Stadium at 601 Cedar St., directly off of Morehead Street. Smith called the opening "very good."



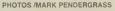
What Smith hopes is the crowds won't fade quickly. Patrons stood in line for a while to get a glimpse of the new night spot which features valet parking, rest room attendants and a modern dance floor. The staff – from security to attendants – will be immaculately dressed, Smith said.

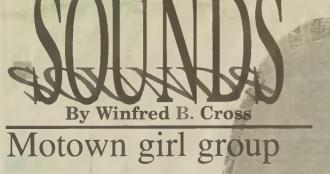
"This is part of what MegaCom is all about," Smith said. "To be able to provide full-service entertainment for adults in Charlotte.

"I've tried to be innovative - Black Comedy Jam on Tuesday night at The Comedy Zone and Jazz Night at CJ's, now Harriston's on Cedar."

See CLUB Page 2B







has more than looks

By Winfred B. Cross THE CHARLOTTE POST

Shades, Motown's latest foray into the world of female groups, wouldn't dare call itself the next Supremes.

But Tiffanie, Monique, Shannon and Danielle don't have to. Motown CEO Andre Harrell has already bestowed group's talent and beauty and bked them up with cuttingige producers such as The Charactors and Eddie F. The group brains working with Wanya Norris of Boyz II Men next week

The group is off to a good start showing its talent. The members to-wrote six songs on its debut CD "Serenade," due





SMITH

that title upon them.

"He walked into the room and said 'Finally, I've found my Supremes,' " said Danielle. "We know that's a huge compliment."

Try gigantic. Diana Ross and The Supremes amassed more No. 1 records than any other female group in history. Harrell



Top Left: Danielle Andrews Top Right: Shannon Walker-Williams Bottom Left: Tiffanie Cardwell Bottom Right: Monique Peoples

heard the group months before the meeting and became interested.

He quickly recognized the

out Oct. 8

The group has been together nearly four years. They met in Boston but now live in New Jersey. Each members sings and writes, All have sung in the church. Danielle has 12 years of piano lessons under her belt.

"Tell Me (FII Be Around)," the first single co-written by the group, is about to crack the Top 40 on Billboard magazine's R&B Singles chart. It is gaining air play around the country. The bouncy, memorable hook is sampled from jazzturned-gospel artist Bernard Wright's "Who Do You Love." The same sample is being used in the remix version of LL Cool J's "Loungin'"

"Our song was out first," Tiffanie said. "His people heard our song and used the same sample."

"Tell Me" is not without controversy. The song is looked upon by some as the golddiggers national anthem with the chorus containing lyrics like "Tell me your name/What kind of car do you drive?/How much money do you make?"

See SHADES Page 2B

SHADES