

1B ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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 one-hour comedy extravaganza. Concert-goers departed from Ovens Auditorium mimicking Mac's words, facial expressions, and jokes. Known for his phrases "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 Photo/Mark Pendergrass

humming church hymns, sliding her feet across the floor as she walks. The audience rolled as he told stories of having to turn out lights during thunderstorms and attend funerals.

The audience was on the

edge of its seat and in tears for 60 minutes.

"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 "sumphin', sumphin'" 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."

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 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 comedians, 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



SMITH

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.' 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."

"We had a couple of kinks on opening night, but minor kinks," Smith said. "These are things that can be worked out quickly."

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



PHOTOS/MARK PENDERGRASS

SOUNDS

By Winfred B. Cross

Motown girl group 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 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

group's talent and beauty and took them up with cutting-edge producers such as The Characters and Eddie F. The group begins working with Wanya Morris of Boyz II Men next week.

The group is off to a good start showing its talent. The members co-wrote six songs on its debut CD "Serenade," due out Oct. 8.

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

"Tell Me (I'll 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 jazz-turned-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 gold-diggers 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