

4B ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Chuck D offers great rap CD



By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

*Chuck D
Autobiography of
MistaChuck
Chuck D, Eric Sadler and
Gary G Whit
Mercury*

☆☆☆☆

Chuck D can certainly be called a rap pioneer. As leader of the group Public Enemy, he amassed a loyal following with such albums *Fear Of A Black Planet* and *It Takes A Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back*, called one of the greatest rap albums ever recorded by several music magazines. Chuck's puffy-jawed delivery and commanding stage presence took the group around the world and back on 38 tours and a string of gold and platinum CDs, gold singles and heaps of critical praise.

Chuck's latest CD, *Autobiography of MistaChuck*, is his first solo recording. Like his recordings with PE, Chuck's solo outing is rife with social commentary and slamming beats. What's missing is all the extraneous background noise which made PE records appealing to its fans, but confusing to me. I much prefer the sparse sound of this record. I can understand everything the brother's talking about.

And he, just as PE, has a lot to say. He takes on his critics in "MistaChuck" ("To all the critics who had me counted out/To all the cynics I fought and thought they had me figured out"). The first single "No" is brilliant social commentary, but went largely unnoticed as has the rest of this fine work.

The problem? This isn't gangsta rap, which proliferates the airwaves. Chuck D is stuck in the social commentary mode, which is fine, but is a harder sell than rapping out shooting someone between the eyes for no particular reason. There's plenty of profanity, but it's used the way Richard Pryor used it in his comedy routines: for a specific purpose.

This is easily one of the best rap CDs of the year. Too bad most people won't give it a listen.

*Art Porter
Don Your Hands On Me
Chuckell Booker, Brian
McKnight, C. Cuban
Tatum, L. Wilburn and Art
Porter, producers
Vowel Forecast Records*

☆☆☆☆

Art Porter was killed in a boating accident several weeks ago, thus ending a brilliant career which was still rising. He may be best remembered for his *Pocket City* CD, which combined jazz, r&b and hip-hop beats with astonishing success.

But his latest was to be his See KHAN page 5B

Moore's celebration more than entertainment

By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

If you're looking for Thomas Moore on New Year's Eve, you'll find him doing the same thing he's been doing for the last 17 years - having a good time with kids.

Moore will hold his Annual New Year's Eve Celebration for Children and Families Tuesday at Charlotte Children's Theatre, 1017 East Morehead Street.

As usual, music, dance and storytelling will be the order of the day. Two performances will be given: one at 11 a.m., the other 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for kids, \$6 adults.

Parents will ring in the new year after each performance with noise makers and singing "We Wish You A Happy New Year" to the tune of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." They will also boogie to a band playing "Rock Around The Clock."

"I just tell the kids they are celebrating New Year's six hours before anyone else," Moore said. "It's not so much of putting emphasis on the performances. It's the sharing. That's what the show is about - sharing. Children and adults sharing their talents with their community."

Moore is proud of the annual show, as he should be. It's one of the few, if not the only event sponsored by African

Americans that has "a good balance of people from all over Charlotte."

"(The show) is child-centered and people are looking for these kind of events," Moore said.



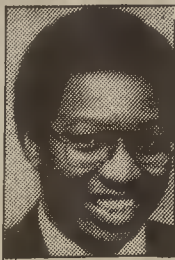
"There's a n encouragement for parents to do things with their children. We've even had brothers and sisters playing together in the past."

A variety of performances will be given. One will include Sammy Davis, the first black to play with the Charlotte Symphony, and his granddaughter playing cello. "He's attended a number of shows. He's there supporting his grandchildren," Moore said.

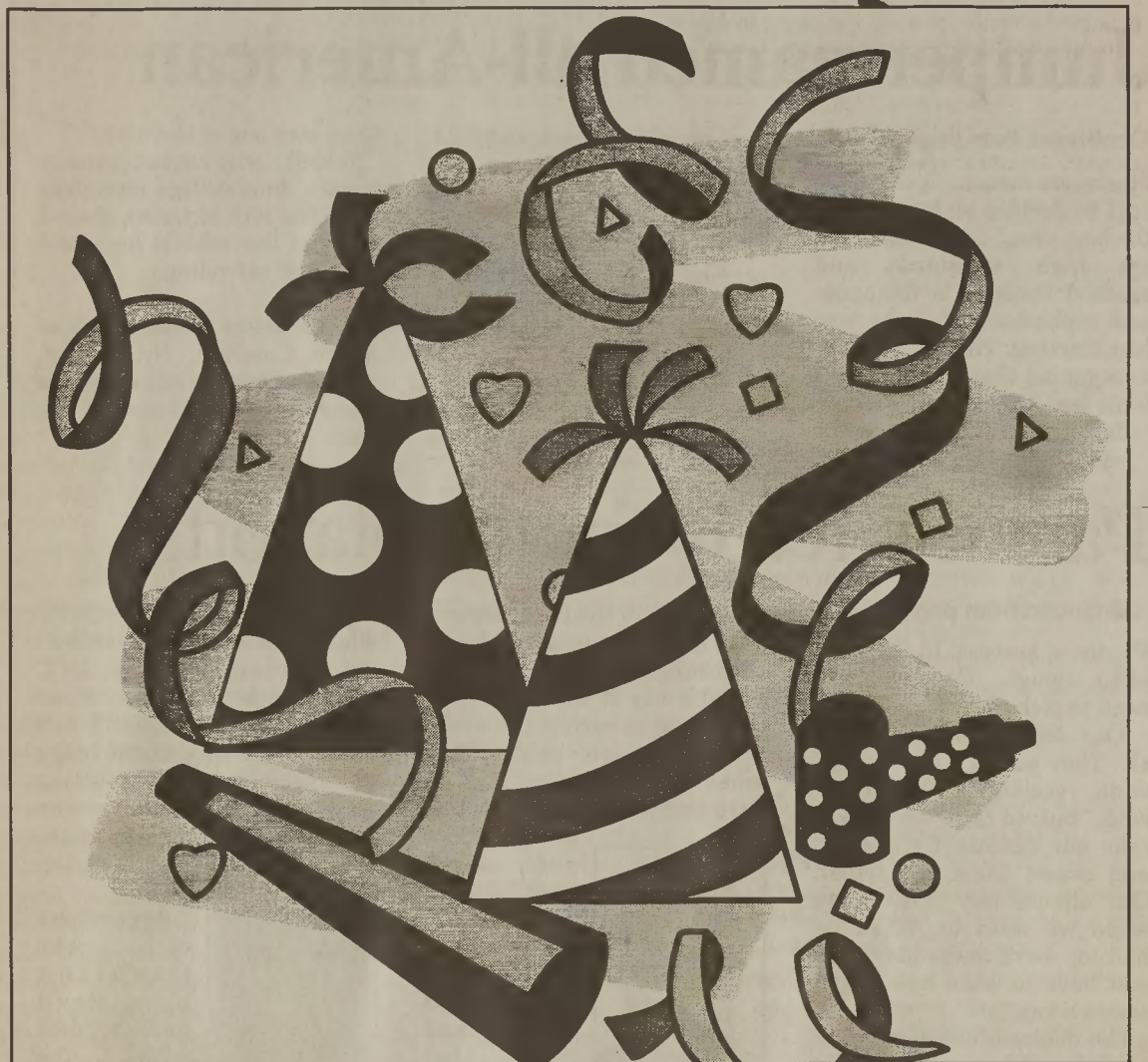
Moore sings and usually plays the saxophone at the event. He's noticed a number of recent children performers now playing the sax, a pretty good indication he's having some effect on kids.

"That makes me feel good," he said. "I don't do this to try to impress people. My vision is more to empower. It's not just entertainment. When kids see other kids doing things they say 'oh, I can do that.'"

Moore's seen a lot of kids perform in his show, including Brian Watt, son of Rep. Melvin Watt, (D-N.C.) and a number of students from noted local piano teacher Clara Jones and dance instructor Fran



Moore



Sullivan. Some past participants are still involved behind the scenes. Parents of Jones' students generally sell tickets for the performances.

Did Moore expect to be doing this so long?

"I never really thought about it," he said. "I just thought there was a vacuum in

Charlotte for a celebration that focused on family. There wasn't enough continuity with organizations. There was nothing that emphasized sharing with kids. That's what this show is about."

Moore is a Charlotte native and is a consultant in child development. He's worked

with the North Carolina Division of Child Development. He was an associate professor of family and child studies at Georgia Southern University. He is writer and singer whose books and records are used in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

The Artist speaks

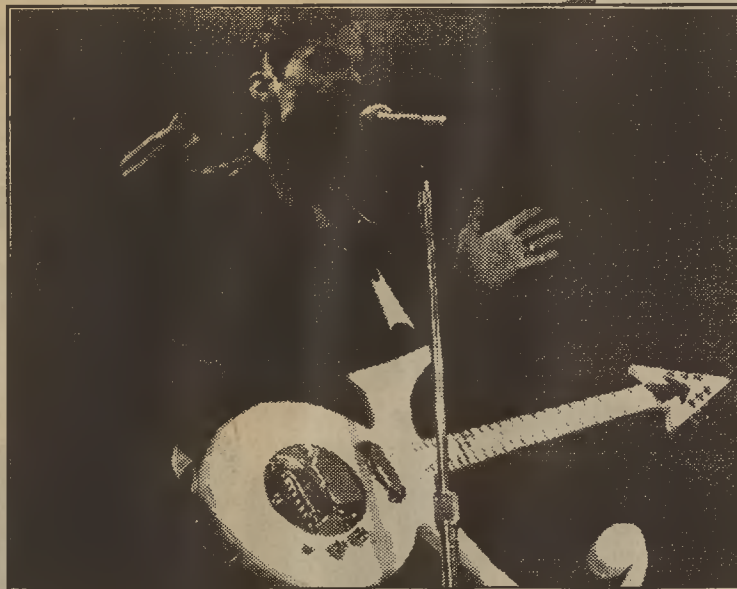
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Pop singer Prince confirmed Thursday that his first child was born in October with some kind of problem, but he would not elaborate.

Appearing on NBC's "Today" with wife Mayte, Prince said: "All I can say is that I'd like to believe that we're both enlightened individuals that

filed for a "Baby Gregory" was for the same infant, said Violet Kilbo, manager of the Hennepin County, Minn., service center for birth, death and marriage certificates.

"Baby Gregory" was born Oct. 16, the same day as Prince's child, and died Oct. 23. Neither certificate lists a father and the death certificate does not clearly identify the child's mother.



The Artist

know that if you leave things in God's hands you'll find out everything, and you'll find out the answer to the plan. So anything that happens, we accept."

Anchor Bryant Gumbel followed up with: "That sounds like ... there's been a problem but you're of the belief that whatever has happened has happened for the best."

The Twin Cities artist answered: "It's happened for a reason, yes."

Previously, the 38-year-old singer, who now uses a sign for a name, had refused to comment on press reports his child was born prematurely with a deformity or that the baby later died.

The birth certificate for Prince's child was filed in Minneapolis, county officials have been unable to substantiate that a death certificate

Kilbo said the matter was turned over to the state vital statistics office after her office got no cooperation from the hospital where Prince's child was born or the mortician who signed the death certificate. While falsifying a death certificate is a misdemeanor, she said, officials just want to get accurate information, and criminal charges are unlikely.

In the "Today" interview, Gumbel also asked about "the continuing point of having an unpronounceable name."

The artist responded: "My name is very spiritual to me. ... One day maybe I'll hear a sound that will best give me the feeling of what it's supposed to be. But for right now I just go by the look of it."

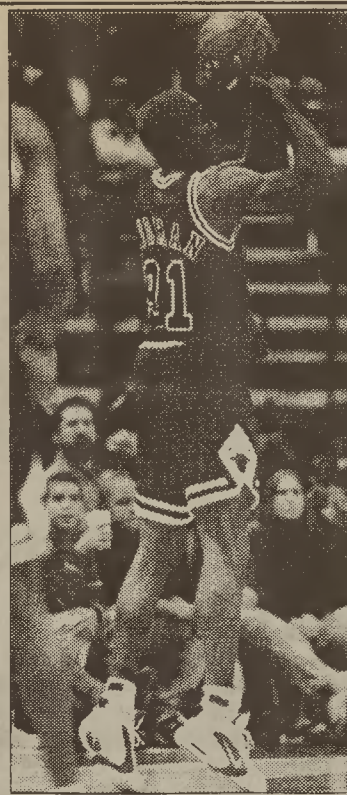
The normally reclusive artist is giving interviews to promote his new three-CD set "Emancipation."

'People' intrigued by Rodman

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - What could be nude, lewd and tattooed Dennis Rodman possibly have in common with Cody and Cassidy's prim and proper mom, Kathie Lee Gifford? Both made this year's list of People magazine's "25 Most Intriguing People of 1996."

The list, which chronicles those who captured America's interest for better or for



RODMAN

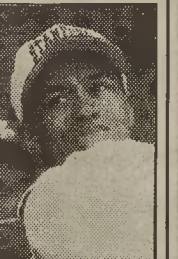
worse, was particularly wide-ranging this year. Binti-Jua, the gorilla that cradled an injured 3-year-old boy at an Illinois zoo, was listed between cleared Atlanta bombing suspect Richard Jewell and buxom MTV star Jenny McCarthy.

Another unlikely threesome: Accused Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, cartoon character Dilbert and GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole. (President Clinton failed to make the cut).

The only repeaters from last year's list were Princess Di, making her 10th appearance, and paralyzed actor Christopher Reeve.

Carolyn Bessette Kennedy made it for marrying JFK Jr.; her husband's alleged old flame, Madonna, made it for having a baby.

The rest of the list: Tom Cruise, Rosie O'Donnell, Chelsea Clinton, George Clooney, Tiger Woods, Goldie Hawn, Conan O'Brien, newly-elected U.S. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, children's advocate Marian Wright Edelman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Brooke Shields, Alanis Morissette and astronaut Shannon Lucid.



WOODS

Houston loses second child

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Singer Whitney Houston suffered her second miscarriage in 2 1/2 years.

The 33-year-old star of "The Preacher's Wife" had the miscarriage on Thursday and was recovering at her Mendham, New Jersey, home, the PMK public relations firm said in a statement. The Grammy-winning singer was due in July.

She also miscarried in mid-1994.

Houston, who is married to singer Bobby Brown, has one child, born in 1993



HOUSTON

