

5B ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Scarface offers more of same CD



By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Scarface
The Untouchable
"G" Prince and B. Jordan,
executive producers
Rap-A-Lot Records

☆☆ 1/2

Scarface has always interested me. I first heard about him as a member of the Geto Boys, whose first CD was deemed so vile, a CD pressing plant refused to print it. After hearing it, I couldn't blame the plant. Vile it was. But this is America and rappers have the same freedom of expression as everyone else.

Scarface uses his right to talk about what nearly every other rapper talks about these days - using drugs, selling drugs, killing drug dealers and making money from selling drugs. Hey, if it sells - the music that is - why not.

Despite his limited subject matter, Scarface does offer some likable stuff on this CD. Musically, it's quite nice, especially "Untouchable." Lyrically, he offers a bit of introspection on "Faith," which offers a look of problems affecting the 'hood. It comes off a bit hypocritical, however. Why blame white people for your problems when you do a whole CD, glorifying drugs and violence.

Speaking of violent, that's about all I can say about "Game Over," which features Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and Too Short. Cube rhyming "Lord, please murder all my enemies, burn at a thousand degrees" is a bit much.

Brownstone
5 Miles To Empty
Big Yam and Victor
Merritt, producers
MJJ/Work/Sony Records

☆☆☆☆

One of the best things Michael Jackson has done in the last three years is sign the trio Brownstone to his MJJ productions. They have a rich sound that revolves around their strong voices and not how they look.

That's not to say they don't look good. They do. But don't depend on their looks to make a statement. Their first CD, *From The Bottom Up*, did all the talking.

It will be a while before the group's sophomore CD *Still Climbing* hits the streets, but not to worry. Brownstone has dropped a killer lead single, "5 Miles To Empty," which will only make the anticipation for the CD greater. The trio hasn't sounded better. Its tight harmony soars above a romantic jeep beat which relies on beautiful acoustic piano tinkling as it does the aggressive bass line. And the lyrics actually say something, nearly an afterthought these days. This has Top 10 written all over it.

God's Property
Stamp!
Rick Franklin and Kevin
Bond, producers
B-Rite Records

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New radio show to showcase the spoken arts

By Winfred B. Cross
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley likes challenges. Why else would she try to do a literature-based radio program?

Because she believes there should be such a program. And now there is. "Story Dove," a 15-minute radio program devoted to the spoken arts, hits the airwaves 7 p.m. Friday on WBAV 1600 AM. Mosley will host.



Mosley

"A dove is very positive, it brings good news," Mosley said. "People feel very positive about doves - the symbolism. I wanted my show to be stories that motivate, inspire people - uplift them. So, I created the show as a venue to promote the oral tradition of story-

vide venues where they can get that exposure, so they feel their art is appreciated and acknowledged." Mosley said the show can also help foster morals and values, "something we don't get enough of in our everyday experience."

It will also increase historical awareness because the stories will be about historical experiences, facts and legends

telling, poetry and prose readings, motivational phrases and quotes.

"My objectives is to provide positive literary entertainment," Mosley said. "I want to provide positive literary entertainment that's educational, cultural, motivational and inspirational to youths and adults."

Mosley plans to use the show to showcase some of her short stories and poems, but she wants full participation from the community as well.

"I'm going to ask people to send in original short stories, prose, poetry to be featured on the show," Mosley said. "For those works selected, I will give the writers a certificate of recognition. There are a lot of talented people who write all the time. We need to pro-

told from an African American perspective, she said.

Mosley spent a year and a half taking "Story Dove" from concept to reality. Although the show lasts only 15 minutes, she spends hours doing research and writing.

"I have to do that because I want to do a quality show," she said. "I have to make sure everything blends. I definitely put in the time to do that."

"Eventually, I'd like to expand to having live performers to come on the show and to expand the time to at least 30 minutes. I'm very appreciative of the management of WBAV. (The show) is going to be the first of this type on that station," she said.

As the premier date draws near, Mosley can hardly contain her excitement.

"When you work hard at something and you finally see a dream come true, it gives you motivation to keep on striving and pushing for greater things," Mosley said. "I feel the show will be a different type of entertainment that we don't normally have on TV or radio on a consistent basis."

Mosley is an assistant vice president and senior auditor for NationsBank. She has an extensive background in the arts, serving as president-elect and regional coordinator of the North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers. She also hosts "EXPRESS IT!," a literary-based program on Cable Access channel 18, which airs the second Sunday at 8 p.m. She has also served as a guest producer and host of the "AAP Magazine" talk show, also on Cable Access channel 18.



Stars' identity becomes synonymous with products

By Carol Deegan
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - "This is not a concert!" scolded Tina Turner as dozens of paparazzi clamored for her attention at Radio City Music Hall.

The legendary rocker had just strode across Radio City's lobby and ascended a small stage to announce her upcoming North American tour.

Dressed in a short, sleeveless black dress and black pumps that showcased her legendary and oh-so-glamorous gams, she smiled and vamped for the eager - and overeager - photographers.

Did she sing a single note? Not a one.

She did offer, however, that

she's never gotten a run in her pantyhose while performing ... hardly your usual question for celebrities.

But in the year since she was selected as the voice - make that legs - for Hanes, a hosiery company, the image of Tina and her pantyhose have become pressed upon the collective consumer consciousness in the United States like extra-firm control tops.

And the phenomenon seems to be everywhere these days: celebrities becoming synonymous with a certain brand-name item as sort of living, breathing organic and very human logos for material goods.

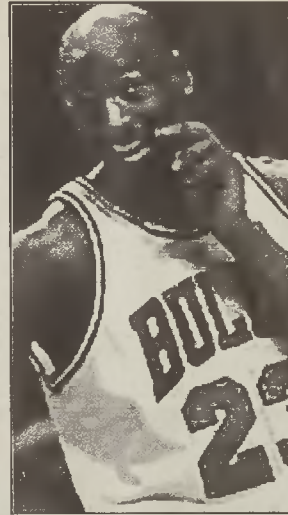
Think of Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan and his Nike Air sneakers. Think

of Suzanne Somers, forever linked to her Thighmaster exercise machine. Now Tiger Woods is helping to further blaze the Nike swoosh logo onto golf courses everywhere.

Marketers are intentionally linking themselves with celebrity endorsers who have logical connections with the products they peddle: their body ... their face ... their athletic ability.

Twelve years ago, when Michael Jordan was a rookie, Nike introduced the Air Jordan sneaker. As Jordan's legend grew, the Nike logo was replaced with the jumpman logo, a silhouette of Jordan, arms outstretched, flying toward the basket.

"It was a magic mix between Michael and Nike," said Nike



Michael Jordan

spokesman Jim Small. "I can't say that we knew he was going to be a good professional basketball player. I don't think anybody at Nike or anybody in the world would have thought that quite arguably in 1997 he would be the world's best known man, which he is."

Each year, a new model of the Air Jordan is designed. No. 13 will be released this fall. And all Jordan has to do to sell the shoe is step out on the basketball floor.

"You can wear the exact same shoes he's wearing on the court," said Small. "It's a little piece of Michael."

"We both grew together," Small said. "We couldn't have reached some of the heights

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Cheadle's career on way up

By Bob Thomas
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



DON CHEADLE

LOS ANGELES - Don Cheadle doesn't even get singled in the new spectacular "Volcano." He spends most of the movie on the phone to his beleaguered boss, Tommy Lee Jones, who is in the field fighting lava, panic and other hazards.

In the movie, both men work for L.A.'s Office of Emergency Management, which has a new kind of disaster: a volcano erupting out of the La Brea Tar Pits on Wilshire Boulevard's Museum Row.

Since the two actors' scenes together are largely on the telephone, they naturally rehearsed - on the telephone.

"The first time I met Tommy was on the set," says Cheadle. "He had been in New York making 'Men in Black,' and I was in Toronto shooting a film. He and I rehearsed our lines over the phone, which actually worked out pretty good, because that's what we do in

the movie. Ninety percent of our scenes together are on the phone.

"It was more realistic in rehearsal than during the movie. Because then, I wasn't talking to him, I was talking to Mick Jackson, the director."

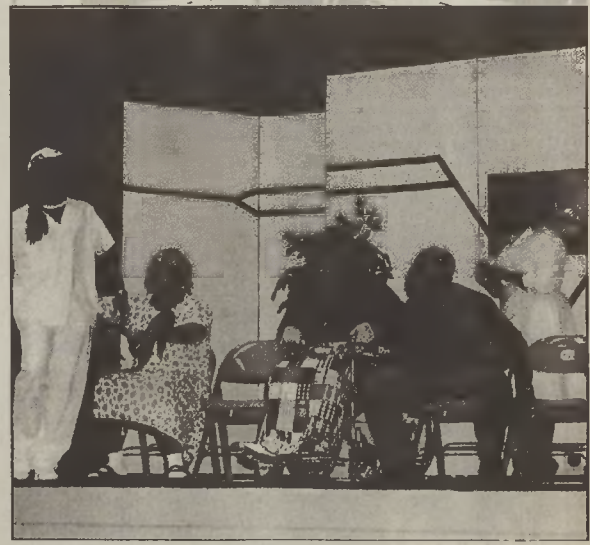
"Volcano," which opened Friday, marks the biggest movie yet for Cheadle, who a few years ago was merely part of the mass of Hollywood actors looking for a break. It came for him in "Devil in a Blue Dress," a whodunit based on the Walter Mosley novel, starring Denzel Washington as a 1950s private eye, Easy Rawlins.

The movie did moderate business, but Cheadle won rave notices as Mouse, Rawlins' trigger-happy friend. The Los Angeles film critics' association named him best supporting actor of the year, and some writers complained when he wasn't nominated for an Academy Award.

"I got a lot of press out of it,"

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Fan Support



PHOTO/MARK PENDERGRASS

Cast members from the hit play "Child Support" perform to an enthusiastic crowd Tuesday night at Ovens Auditorium. The show ended a two-day, near-sold out run Wednesday