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KODAK CELEBRATES THE BLACK FAMILY

MALCOLM-JAMAL WARNER was among many stars who appeared at the "Kodak Funshot Outdoor Studio," during the recent National Black Family Reunion Celebration in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women. Here, Sheila J. Knight of Eastman Kodak Company, presents Warner (honorary reunion chairperson and "The Cosby Show" star) with a Kodak S100 35mm camera. During the celebration, more than 250,000 attended seminars on family values, spirituality, education and other topics focusing on the African-American family unit.

Behind-The-Scenes

(Byline=Lisa Collins)

Move Over Spike Lee: Euzhan Palcy, a 32-year old director-filmmaker took everyone by surprise when she coaxed Marlon Brando (who waived his fee) out of retirement to co-star in her film, "A Dry White Season" along with other Hollywood headliners like Susan Sarandon and Donald Sutherland. The film carries a powerful anti-apartheid message, care-fully woven into a tale of injustice, betrayal, passion and suspense. Said Palcy, "I wanted to put in the film all the rage that I felt when I went to Soweto. I know how powerful a weapon film can be and I know that film can effect social change". It is the second film for Palcy, whose first, Sugar Cane Alley, won critical acclaim. According to the Director's guild, Palcy is the first black woman to direct a full-length feature for a major U.S. studio. Palcy, a native of Martinique, studied film and literature, in Paris. But for all the Hollywood big names she got to headline her film, Palcy insisted on using black south Africans wherever possible. "For me as a black filmmaker, it was important to have blacks who took the risk of their life to come secretly to Zimbabwe to be in an anti-apartheid film and to go back to South Africa. That makes my film special to me." That makes my film special to me." The film is slated to open nationwide next week.

Emmy Awards--A Bust For Blacks? Diahann Carroll and Sammy Davis Jr. were among those present and honored with lifetime achievement awards, at the annual pre-Emmy NAACP gala in Beverly Hills. Other celebrities in attendance included Danny Glover, Bernie Casey, Paula Kelly, Maria Gibbs, and Cleavon Little. The purpose of the affair, sponsored by some of the nation's top black businessmen, is to honor those nominated for Emmys. And it's a good thing too, as aside from the six technical awards that went to "Lonesome Dove", just one black-actor Cleavon Little, took home one of the coveted statuettes. Cleavon received the award for a guest stint on the comedy series, "Dear John"...Suzanne DePasse threw a party at the home of Berry Gordy to celebrate the half dozen awards her project garnered. Among the guests present were Brenda & Lionel Richie who seem to have reconciled their differences.

Natalie Cole and Andre Fisher exchanged their vows in a some-what private church ceremony. Over 400 well-wishers including Dionne Warwick, Brenda Russell and actress Beverly Todd turned out for the lavish reception at the Biltmore Hotel, in Los Angeles...Speaking of weddings, how would you like to be serenaded by Luther Vandross on you wedding night? Thanks to New York radio station WBSL and Epic Records, that dream came true for one New York couple chosen grand prize winners in a local "Dream Wedding" promotion. Vandross used the occasion to premiere his new single, "Here & Now". The single is one of two new releases from his "Greatest Hits LP" due next week.

No Show For Miles: Roberta Flack was there. So too were Joe Sample and drumming sensation Terri Lynne Carrington. But Miles Davis, guest of honor at the party thrown to celebrate the release of his new book at Indigo Blues in New York City didn't show...Meanwhile, just next door at the Lunt-Fontaine Theater, Freddie Jackson was performing his Broad-way singing debut, dubbed "Up Close & Personal". Word is that the show's opener, Regina Belle, stole the show...**Short Takes:** Sammy Davis will undergo therapy for throat cancer. Davis' doctors who caught the cancerous growth early, say the prognosis is for complete recovery. Meanwhile, the condition has broken the veteran performer of his life-long habit of smoking...Over 1,000 turned out for the premiere party of Janet Jackson's long-awaited followup LP, "Rhythm Nation". Among the guests, who were urged to wear black, were Quincy Jones, Sugar Ray Leonard, Mike Tyson, Robert Townsend, Rob Lowe, Heavy D, River Phoenix, and Donny Osmond...Next week: Melba Moore's declaration of Independence.

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On The Money

(Byline= Serra Syndication)

Controversial Catholic Priest Urges Economic Empowerment For Blacks: Controversial black priest Father George Stallings, who recently broke away from the Catholic church to form an independent congregation and was subsequently the target of a Washington Post expose (alleging sexual misbehavior with and altar boy some 12 years ago), called for a boycott of the Washington Post. Said Stallings, "the Washington Post has systematically sought to destroy any male or female black leader who has sought to bring about radical change". The boycott is the first step in what Rev. Stallings is now calling Project Ujaama, "cooperative economics to build and maintain our own stores, shops, press, and other businesses and to profit together from them". As a consequence, Stallings boycott has not been limited to the Post, but to a dozen businesses that who does big business in the black community while advertising in the Post. Among those targeted are "Foot Locker", "The Gap" and "Circuit City". In response to the threat, the Post published a listing of its major advertisers. Stallings, however, isn't buying the move, stating "there is no doubt that Washington is alarmed, especially the Post and the white establishment, with the prospect of an economic boycott. This", he went on, "is a grace-filled moment...to move toward economic empowerment.

That somehow we can create the economic base that will correlate with the political gains that we are now experiencing."

More Money For Michael: Michael Jackson just recently signed a \$10 million plus pact with L.A. Gear to serve as celebrity spokesman...Meanwhile, the pricetag on sister Janet's premiere party for her latest LP, "Rhythm Nation", was \$400,000. What kind of party, one might ask, brings a pricetag of \$400,000. Well, one that included 24 security guards and 95 waiters--all in costume; three different caterers (with a menu that included 500 pounds of shrimp as well as 3,200 slices of pizza); 50 TV monitors (to air the 30-minute film that accompanied the album); and a production crew of 34 for over two days to recreate the setting of Jackson's \$1.6 million tele-musical, 30-minute film.

Foreman Fights To Get Back In The Money: What's he trying to prove is the question many are asking with regards to a proposed boxing match between George Foreman and "Iron" Mike Tyson. However for Foreman it is simply a matter of money. "The Fighting Preacher" stands to gain a cool \$5 million should Tyson accept the challenge. "George is as strong as a bull. He's 40, but with a 20-year old punch", is the word from former boxer turned promoter Thad Spencer, who is representing Foreman in the negotiations. "The money (\$25 million) is in place for a Tyson-Foreman fight in America and I got it", said Spencer who sees the match as his first big break as a boxing promoter. However, that break has been jeopardized as Foreman has accepted a bid to fight Cooney in January for \$1.1 million. King had said he was close to finalizing a deal for a Tyson-Foreman match sometime in spring or early summer, but stated that a Cooney-Foreman match could jeopardize the deal. For now, we'll just have to wait and see. In Short: The Afro-American newspaper chain, which owns three of the nation's oldest black weeklies, has had more than its share of financial troubles, but recently worked out a plan to restructure and are according to a close source, profitable. However, their troubles were doubled when someone leaked word of their misfortune to the Washington Post and the Baltimore Business Journal...Are your credit card balances higher than average? Well, according to a recent report issued by the American Bankers Association, bank credit card users had an average monthly balance of about \$1,200 last year. (Just 35% percent paid off those balances in full)...Next week: Life imitates art as actor Roger Mosley makes success of company based on Magnum exploits.

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