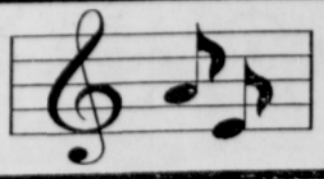


# ENTERTAINMENT



## Real-Life Fresh Prince Proves Life Can Be Stranger Than Fiction



Benny Medina

Television producer and record executive Benny Medina details the events of his childhood which led to his becoming "The Real-Life Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," and describes his view from the top of the show business industry, in the April EBONY.

Medina's life is royally satirized Monday nights by actor/rapper Will Smith on the highest-rated new TV sitcom, "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air." Medina explains how he and music and TV great Quincy Jones, the comedy's executive producer, convinced NBC head in one night to sign the show and buy Smith's acting abilities. As vice

president and general manager of Black music at Warner Brothers Records, the 32-year-old tycoon details his profession from living in a Los Angeles ghetto, to securing a position at the top of the music industry and earning \$1 million before his 30th birthday.

Medina also comments on how the popular comedy differs somewhat from his actual experiences, including how an abusive uncle prompted his move to Beverly Hills. His successes also include his two-year romance with supermodel Beverly Johnson, and an upcoming film project starring Smith, who refers to him as a "business genius."

## Please Hammer, Don't Hurt Her



Tracie Spencer and M.C. Hammer

Capitol recording artists M.C. Hammer and Tracie Spencer were the center of attention at the post-American Music Awards party hosted by Capitol Records at Eureka on the Westside, January 28. M.C. Hammer (pictured right), who walked away with five AMA awards that evening, was congratulated by young singing sensation Spencer (picture left), who is currently celebrating the success of her new album, Make The Difference and its fresh hit single, "This House."

## Coronation Moves To New Site Lloyd Center To Host 1991 Queen Crowning

A major Rose Festival event is moving to a new location. Starting in 1991, the The Lloyd Center Queen's Coronation will be held at the Ice Pavilion at the Lloyd Center.

"The Rose Festival supports all of the development efforts in Northeast Portland, and we want to show that support by holding one of our traditional, major events here," says Gene Leo, executive manager of the Portland Rose Festival Association. "From the opening of the Oregon Convention Center to the newly renovated Lloyd Center, the Northeast community is thriving and we want to be a part of it."

"The Coronation Committee had been looking at ways to bring a sense of

newness to the Queen's Coronation. Moving the event certainly accomplishes this objective," adds Marcia Apperson, chairman of the Coronation Committee.

The Queen's Coronation will be the first major event held in the newly remodeled Ice Pavilion. The project was part of a \$200 million, two-year renovation of Lloyd Center.

Moving the event from the Civic Auditorium to the Lloyd Center also moves it away from the usual traffic congestion in downtown Portland.

The Lloyd Center Queen's Coronation will take place Friday, May 31 at 8 p.m. The event will be televised live on KOIN-TV.

## the tapes of dexter jackson Completes Principle Photography



(L-to-R) Lisa C. Arrindell, T.C. Carson and Afrika Baby Bam star in this new comedy.

Principal photography has been completed on The Samuel Goldwyn Company's comedy "The Tapes Of Dexter Jackson."

Shot on location in Atlanta, Georgia, "THE TAPES OF DEXTER JACKSON" is the story of a young black student at the Ajax School of Broadcasting who gets the scoop of a lifetime that lands him a newscasting job at the local affiliate. In the wake of his success, Dexter leaves more than a few battered relationships and part of his identity as he tries to capture his dreams. Featured in the film

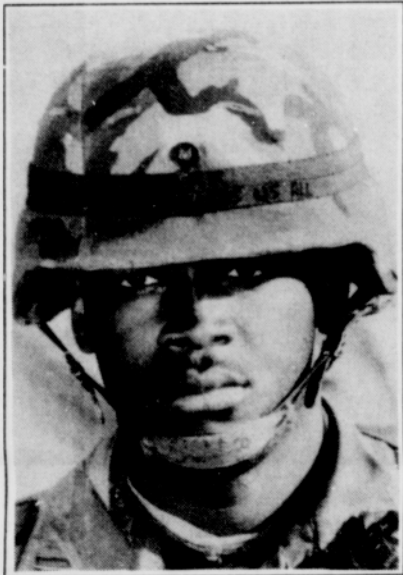
is music by the Jungle Brothers led by Afrika Baby Bam.

Michael Schultz (CRUSH GROVE, CAR WASH, COOLEY HIGH) directed "THE TAPES OF DEXTER JACKSON" from an original script by William Mosely Payne. The film's executive producer is David V. Picker (THE JERK, AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN).

"THE TAPES OF DEXTER JACKSON" is scheduled for domestic release in the summer of 1991 by The Samuel Goldwyn Company.

## Black America's War

PBS airdate: Tuesday, April 2, 9 P.M., 60 minutes



Black soldiers comprised almost thirty percent of the U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf War. In "Black America's War," airing Tuesday, April 2, at 9 P.M. (check local listings).

It came to be known as the "race gap." Amid the rush to consensus that marked much of the public sentiment surrounding the Gulf War, black Americans stood conspicuously apart. Blacks were three times more likely to oppose America's involvement in the Gulf than their white counterparts. At the same time, nearly thirty percent of all ground troops in the Gulf were black men and women.

Throughout American history, the armed forces have mirrored the divisions of American daily life, and, at times, contributed to their healing. No American war in this century has failed to change the lives of black Americans. What will be the legacy of the Gulf War?

In "Black America's War," airing Tuesday, April 2, at 9 P.M., (check

local listings), FRONTLINE looks at the role of the black American soldier in the United States military. The program will be highlighted by a town hall meeting and debate held in an inner-city church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Harvard University Professor of Law Charles Olgetree will serve as moderator.

Every Democratic member of the Black Caucus opposed the use of force from the Reverend Jesse Jackson to Martin Luther King, III-the peace movement read like a "Who's Who" of black American leadership.

At the same time, this war marked the anointment of a man nicknamed the "black Eisenhower." General Colin Powell is now the most powerful black man in America. The first African-American ever to gain entry into this nation's "inner circle," Powell provided the Bush administration with the military doctrine that informed the Gulf War and the early resolve to carry it through.

With victory in the Gulf, Americans have embraced him, with polls showing Powell triumphing in all manners of hypothetical! "dream tickets." Intriguingly, his popularity appears greater among whites than blacks.

In production at this time, interviews and panelists will include Jesse Jackson, Lt. Gen. Frank Petersen (who is the first black marine general), journalist and author Hodding Carter III, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and professor Roger Wilkins, and Major Elwood Driver, a retired Army Air Corps officer who is one of the original members of the all-black World War II "Tuskegee Airmen."

"Black America's War" is produced by Thomas Lennon and is directed by Michael Kirk.

Photo provided by Jim Hollander/Reuters/Bettmann Newsphotos

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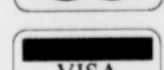
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## Packy Celebrates 29th Birthday

Metro Washington Park Zoo is throwing a gigantic birthday party to help Packy, Portland's famous elephant, celebrate his 29th birthday...the date is Saturday, April 13, the time, 11 a.m. to 3p.m.

During the festivities, party-goers can meet Babar, the fairy-tale elephant featured on HBO, and have a piece of cake baked especially for Packy's guests by Albertson's Bakery. The 4-foot by 8-foot concoction will be designed and decorated by special team under the watchful eye of Albertson's Bakery manager, Steve Wylie.

TCI Cable will be honored as Packy's official Zoo Parent, and prizes will be awarded to winners in the Packy Birthday Coloring Contest, sponsored by TV Host. Entry blanks for the contest are available at TV Host offices, TCI Cable and the Zoo. Winners will be selected in random drawings.

At 2 p.m. the Marshall High School band will strike up "Happy Birthday" and Packy will make his grand entrance and eat his cake.

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