

OVERHEARD

by Keith Uhlich

Did you know that...

Producers of the Chuck Norris martial arts show, *Walker, Texas Ranger*, have nixed the idea for a proposed cameo appearance by O.J. Simpson houseguest Kato Kaelin. The episode would have run next season. Kaelin has already acted on The UPN series *The Watcher*, E!'s *Talk Soup*, and Comedy Central's *Politically Incorrect*. Kaelin's will also make an appearance on the ABC series *Roseanne* in the not too distant future. -*Daily Variety*-

CBS will air the Barbra Streisand special *Barbra: The Concert* on May 21 from 8:30-11 pm. It included footage not seen in its first airing on HBO. -*Daily Variety*-

Samuel L. Jackson (*Pulp Fiction*, *Kiss of Death*) will star in the adaptation of John Grisham's first novel, *A Time to Kill*. Sandra Bullock (*Speed*, *While You Were Sleeping*) is rumored to be in negotiations for the female lead. Joel Schumacher (*The Client*, *Batman Forever*) will direct. -*Daily Variety*-

In yet another effort to revive the already dead *Saturday Night Live*, the show's producers have hired British comic Morwenna Banks to join the cast. Banks' claim to fame is her U.K. Channel Four sketch comedy *Absolutely* which she co-created. -*Daily Variety*-

ABC network broke its 16 year losing streak in the Nielsen's becoming the number one network of the 1994-95 season with a final 12.0 rating/20 share. NBC turned itself around to take second place with an 11.5 rating/19 share, CBS stumbled into third with an 11.1 rating/18 share, FOX remained in fourth place with a 7.7 rating/12 share. -*Daily Variety*-

Hollywood's newest foray into the world of Shakespeare will be an adaptation of the Bard's *Othello*. Laurence Fishburne (*What's Love Got to Do With It*) is the first black man to play the title character in a major production. Shakespeare vet Kenneth Branagh will co-star as the conniving Iago. Rumored to be at the top of the list for Desdemona is *Pulp Fiction*'s Uma Thurman. Surprisingly, Branagh himself will not direct this time around. Instead the reigns are handed to British theatre director Oliver Parker. The production will shoot in Italy. -*Daily Variety*-