

the returning *Code 3*. At 9:30 p.m., a new sketch comedy will debut. *The Edge*, described by Chernin as "the kind of loud, in-your-face, noisy comedy Fox is known for," is produced by David Mirkin (producer of the departing *Get a Life*).

On Sundays, four new comedies will join four returning comedies. At 7 p.m., the new *Great Scott*, about a Walter Mitty-type adolescent, will lead off. At 7:30 p.m., another new sketch comedy, *The Ben Stiller Show*, debuts.

From 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Sunday lineup remains intact: *In Living Color*, *Roc*, *Married...with Children* and *Herman's Head*, with *Roc* airing live.

At 10 p.m., Fox has slotted *Flying Blind*, about a boring young guy and his wild girlfriend. At 10:30 p.m., a new Witt-Thomas comedy, *Whoops!*, is scheduled, about the off-beat survivors of a nuclear blast.

Two dramas will fill the network's Tuesday slate from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Leading off the night will be *Class of '96*, a sort of *thirtysomething* for the college set. The show is from ABC

Productions and marks the first time a network has produced another series for a competing network.

At 9 p.m., Fox has scheduled *Key West*, with a quirky cast of characters inhabiting the famed Florida isle.

Chernin also reported the network has nine backup shows: comedies *Down the Shore*; *Rachel Gunn*, *R.N.*;

a new Dan Ackroyd comedy; *CCPD*; *Circus*; *Exposed* (from Hugh Wilson); the parody *Danger Theatre*, *Shaky Ground* (with *Doctor Doctor's* Matt Frewer), and *Parker Lewis*, which comes off the starting lineup. The one drama backup is an anthology series, *Tribeca*, from Robert De Niro and David Burke. ■

RIOTS BOOST MAY RATINGS IN LA

In sweeps, Capacities/ABC's KABC reaps largest benefits

By Mike Freeman

The seven Los Angeles stations' May 1992 sweeps received a dramatic ratings boost from the unexpected April 29-May 3 riots in south-central L.A. However, it was a case of the rich getting richer. The following is an analysis of the Nielsen Station Index overnight ratings for the May 1992 sweeps (NSI, April 23-May 20), compared with May 1991 sweeps results (NSI, April 25-May 22):

Although the near-continuous coverage of the riot and post-riot delivered significant across-the-board news gains for the seven Los Angeles stations, particularly for KABC-TV's 11 p.m. newscast and independent KCAL(TV)'s prime time news block, it

remains to be seen if the VHF's will recover quickly from the estimated \$7 million-\$10 million in lost advertising revenues.

KABC's late newscast scored the most dramatic coup in the market, improving its rating by 36% (up 23% in share) with a top-ranked 8.0/19 average. Previously, KNBC-TV owned the 11-11:30 p.m. news period, but fell to second place with a 7.3/17 average, a 23% decline from its year-ago share of the market. Even KCBS-TV fed off the NBC O&O's misfortune by upping its share 8% with a fourth-ranked 5.7/13 sweeps average.

In May 1991, KABC owned a narrow advantage over KNBC-TV in the 4-6:30 p.m. local news slots, but substantially widened its margin with

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KUSHNER-LOCKE, RYSHER MERGE

As first reported in BROADCASTING ("Bi-Coastal," May 25) Kushner-Locke Co. and Rysher Entertainment are joining forces. K-L will acquire all of Rysher's assets in a straight stock transaction at a price based on five times Rysher's 1992 net earnings after taxes, which is expected to put it in the \$7.5 million-\$10 million range. Both companies will keep their separate names as subsidiaries of a new, yet-to-be-named parent company. Rysher currently distributes the off-network NBC Productions series *Saved by the Bell*, and is partnered with Italy's Silvio Berlusconi Communications and France's Gaumont Productions on the first-run worldwide launch of *The Highlander*. Rysher is also launching first-run weekly series *Uptown Comedy Club*, as well as off-network series *Captain N*, for 1992-93 syndication.

Kushner-Locke Co-chairman and President Peter Locke says his production company provides "international co-production expertise and contacts," while Rysher brings a previously unavailable "domestic pipeline." Most recently known for its production of CBS's late night weekly *Sweating Bullets* (Multimedia Entertainment has distribution rights), K-L has two unidentified hour-long series produced with "foreign partners" ready for possible domestic syndication by Rysher in 1993-94, according to Locke. Additionally, K-L is producing a 1992-93 NBC movie-of-the-week, *Father & Son*, and an NBC miniseries based on the novel "Double Cross," about organized crime figure Sam Giancana, as well as a telefilm about convicted mob boss John Gotti, in development for CBS. ■