



**ACT II**

Actress Sophie Okonedo (L) and actor Don Cheadle pose prior to a screening of "Ray" at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Sunday. The two actors star in the film "Hotel Rwanda" that is based on the true story of hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina who saved hundreds of lives by sheltering people in his hotel during Rwanda's 1994 genocide when an estimated 800,000 people were killed in 100 days.

## Combs upset at child support

NEW YORK (AP) - The baby mama drama just won't stop for P. Diddy. The mogul also known as Sean Combs says he's hurt that the mother of his first child has gone to court to increase his child support payments, claiming that "it's ridiculous to think any of my kids would want for anything."

Combs called The Associated Press on Thursday night to talk about the legal action filed against him by Misa Hylton-Brim, the mother of their 10-year-old son, Justin.

"We've had a great relationship, and then all of the sudden I got hit with a lawsuit for more money," he said.

In August, a Westchester County magistrate ordered Combs to increase his child support from a reported \$5,000 per month to about \$35,000. That's the same amount he pays to model Kim Porter, the mother of his sec-

ond child, Christian. Combs and Porter are currently "together."

Hylton-Brim is a fashion stylist for Lil' Kim and other stars. A message left for her attorney after hours was not immediately returned.

Combs said he has always paid her more than \$5,000 per month, a figure he says the pair agreed to years earlier. Combs said he has paid for his son's schooling, medical care, clothes and anything else his child wanted.

"My son goes to the best schools, he has full-time tutors," he said - not to mention the restaurants he named after the boy. "I wouldn't know what else to do to give my son."

Combs, who is appealing the \$35,000-per-month ruling, claims Hylton-Brim is only seeking more money because she's in the process of getting a divorce from her husband, with whom she has

children.

"It's not about child support, it's about adult support," he said. "I love the mother of my first child. I would never want to do anything to hurt her, but I have to defend the kind of father that I am."

At one point, when Porter and Combs were not together, she also went to court to raise her child support payments, which at the time were a court-ordered \$11,000 per month.

Is Hylton-Brim seeking parity with Porter?

"The fact is," Combs said, "that the mother of my first child gets more money than the mother of my second child."

Although Combs likened Hylton-Brim's case to extortion, he said he had no ill feelings against her.

"I'm always going to respect her for being the mother of my child," he said, "but at the same time, that don't mean she has to be right."

## Cosby urges parental involvement

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bemoaning an increasing tendency of parents to "manage their kids' lives by cell phone," entertainer Bill Cosby pleaded Wednesday with fathers, mothers, teachers and other authority figures to work harder to improve the lives of Black children.

"With all the systemic racism that pounds at us every day, there is nothing that will defeat parenting," the comedian and education activist told an audience of about 500 people during a panel discussion at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's annual legislative conference.

In the schools, Cosby said many students have "a great deal of anger" that goes unnoticed by educators because

of a lack of psychologists and psychiatrists. Underlying problems at home, such as child abuse, can go undetected, Cosby said.

That anger, he said, manifests itself in the profanity-laced language that some kids use today.

"It's very important to call ourselves on it and look in the mirror, but we need all of our players involved and we need to be galvanized," Cosby said.

Wearing sunglasses and dressed in a tan suit, Cosby again stood by remarks he made in May in which he criticized certain segments of the Black community on issues from their grammar to complaints about police brutality.

The comments had been construed by some as an elit-

ist attack on the poor.

"As far as I'm concerned, come at me all you want. Write all the articles you want, because you are not making any sense," he said, eliciting applause from the crowd.

Earlier in the day, former Democratic presidential candidate Al Sharpton, Black caucus members and other leaders and academics met over breakfast with Cosby to show support for the entertainer's comments and discuss the behavior of Black youth.

Sharpton's National Action Network announced it would start a media campaign designed to "bring Black families together" and conduct studies about how to improve the Black community.

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