

## TIME OUT

## BITS AND PIECES

## September's here and football's back on TV

By Steve Paschal

On Sunday, Sept. 1, NBC begins its 27th consecutive season of live NFL coverage when the Seattle Seahawks take on the New Orleans Saints from the Louisiana Superdome. The Seahawks, who suffered through an injury-plagued first-half in 1990, hope to recapture the late-season form that saw them win six of their last eight games and finish tied with Houston and Pittsburgh for an AFC wild-card play-off spot in 1990. The Saints went 7-5 after acquiring quarterback Steve Walsh from the Dallas Cowboys early in the season, and made only their second play-off appearance since joining the league in 1967. But they'll be hard-pressed to repeat the feat in a division that includes the San Francisco 49ers and a rejuvenated Los Angeles Rams team.

CBS kicks off the season with double-header action that begins with four regional games: Dallas at Cleveland, Philadelphia at Green Bay, Atlanta at Kansas City and Tampa Bay at the New York Jets. Then, Phoenix goes against the Rams, while Minnesota and Chicago go head-to-head in the latest chapter of their black-and-blue division rivalry.

ABC saves the best for last when the San Francisco 49ers meet the defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants on the regular-season premiere of Monday Night Football. A Sports Illustrated NFL Preview Special precedes the game.

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## You can take the Hammer out of the kid, but ...

Rap-sensation M.C. Hammer is readying his own Saturday morning series, *Hammerman*, for debut Sept. 7 on ABC. When asked what cartoons he watched as a kid, the Hammer said he spent his time with *The Flintstones*, *The Jetsons*, *Spider-Man* and *Superman*.

Singer Fontella Bass will record a new version of her 1965 chart-topper "Rescue Me" for the upcoming film of the same name. The movie stars Stephen Dorff as a bookish teenager who witnesses the kidnapping of a beautiful girl (Ami Dolenz). Dorff enlists the aid of a biker (Michael Dudikoff) to rescue the girl from her abductors, played by Peter DeLuise and William Lucking.

Emmy-nominee Veronica Hamel (*Hill Street Blues*) and Susan Ruttan (*L.A. Law*) recently completed filming of *Deadly Medicine*, a dramatic thriller based on a true story. Hamel plays a successful, happily married pediatrician whose life begins to crumble when an infant in her care mysteriously dies. Her worst fears are realized when she begins to suspect her faithful nurse (Ruttan) of being the killer. No airdate has been set for the NBC-made telefilm.



M.C. Hammer

Viewers for Quality Television (VQT) has given CBS another boost. The organization recently voted the network six awards for the 1990-1991 season. *Murphy Brown* received three: best quality comedy, best actress (Candice Bergen) and the best comedy writing award; Burt Reynolds and Michael Jeter of *Evening Shade* were named best actor and supporting actor, respectively; Alice Ghostley of *Designing Women* was named best specialty player. In the past, VQT has helped save shows such as *Designing Women* from imminent cancellation.



Spike Lee offers personal reminiscences of summers gone by on *The Labor Day Show*, Monday on PBS.



Meg Tilly and Rob Lowe play ill-fated lovers in the thriller *Masquerade*, Friday on HBO.



Rapper M.C. Hammer is now an exciting animated star in *Hammerman*, Saturday mornings on ABC.