

BITS AND PIECES

Family values, English style; more praise for 'Murphy'

Could you define your terms? That's what writer/producer Diane English, creator of Emmy-winning *Murphy Brown* and a new romantic comedy, *Love and War*, seems to be saying to Vice President Dan Quayle on the subject of "family values." Quayle brought up the notion last spring in a speech in which he blasted *Brown* for portraying a working woman who has a child out of wedlock. Now, English is immersed in the story of two professional people who surprise themselves by falling in love.

"These two words [family values]," English sighs. "Why did no one talk about it last year or the year before? That's what really angers me. We're [*Love and War*] not a family show. There are not children on this show. These people aren't married. Family values is not a priority."

"I am not even sure what that means. If somebody can define it, then maybe we'll address it. But at this point I think it's very individual for each person. So, it's two words I'd like to see not be put together so much anymore."

No dry remarks here. Adding to *Murphy Brown*'s recent Emmy win, the show's "On the Rocks" episode has won the 1992 Scott Newman Drug Abuse Prevention Award for best comedy program.



Diane English

Some characters die hard. Peter Horton's character, Gary Shepherd, died during the last season of ABC's *thirtysomething*, but Horton's directing career goes on apace. Currently, Horton is serving as consultant, director and part-time actor to the Fox series *Class of '96*, which debuts Tuesday, Oct. 26. The drama is produced under the aegis of ABC Productions, where Horton has just inked a deal to develop additional series. Trouble is, in a press release announcing the deal, Horton's new boss, Brandon Stoddard, referred to him as Gary.

TIME OUT

Super Bowl of tennis or net gain of \$500,000?

By Jennifer Fields

The court is in session — the tennis court, that is. On Friday, Sept. 25, the two winningest tennis players in the history of the game will play each other in a contest dubbed the "Duel of the Decade." Martina Navratilova will face Jimmy Connors in a three-set match at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, with the winner to take home \$500,000.

Promoters are calling this event the "Battle of the Champions." In 1973, the match between tennis champ Billy Jean King and male chauvinist Bobby Riggs was given the title "Battle of the Sexes," and rightfully so. King was out to prove a point — that a woman could defeat a man in athletic competition. Her match against Riggs held great significance for women, and, from the moment she trounced Riggs, men had to think twice before making a disparaging remark about female athletes.

One has to wonder about the significance of the Connors-Navratilova match. If Connors does beat Navratilova, will women lose respect in the athletic world? Not likely. Her winning record alone should guarantee her place in tennis history. By the same token, Connors' record as the winningest male to play the game should not be overshadowed by a Sept. 25 loss.

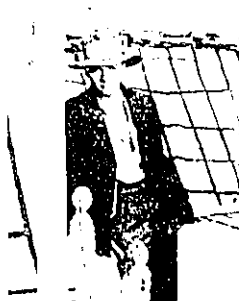
Times have changed. Motivations have changed. In 1973, the motivation was proving the point that female athletes were a force to be dealt with. The motivation this time seems to be money.



Sam Waterson and John Aaron Bennett star in *I'll Fly Away*, having its season premiere Friday on NBC.



Saturdays on NBC, Robert Ulrich (right) and Dalton James star in the drama series *Crossroads*.



Sean Patrick Flanery plays the title role in *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*, Mondays on ABC.