

Pay TV Guide

JANUARY 22-28, 1996



THERE has been so much talk recently about television's portrayal of the dysfunctional American family that you'd think it was a modern invention.

The golden age of the dysfunctional family, or at least the non-nuclear family, was in the late-1960s and early-1970s when single-parent families were all the rage. *The Brady Bunch*, *The Partridge Family*, *My Three Sons*, even *My Favourite Martian* (with an extraterrestrial uncle) presented the happiest of families without ever having a full quota of parents.

Students of this strange phenomenon will be able to observe all the nuances of this esoteric sub-genre of American sitcom when TV1 shows 14 of the "best" episodes of *The Partridge Family* in what can be fairly described as an "Australia Day Orgy of Partridges".

La Famille Partridge

As the 14 episodes start at 7.30 pm and continue until 1.30 am, and as there are a large number of mature women who cut their sexual teeth on the idea of David Cassidy (the implausibly named Keith Partridge) as the ultimate spunk, TV1 is suggesting that, in an act of giddy déjà vu, audiences should re-enact an early 1970s teen pyjama party.

So, invite around all your friends, settle in front of the television (preferably the 21" model in the mahogany cabinet) in that prim night-attire and swoon over that gorgeous David Cassidy.

For those interested in the minor byways of cinematic and television history, there's an episode where Jodie Foster (at the ripe old age of 11) falls in love with Danny and another where John Astin, of *The Addams Family*, plays an eccentric multimillionaire.

■ Bruce Elder

PARTRIDGE party