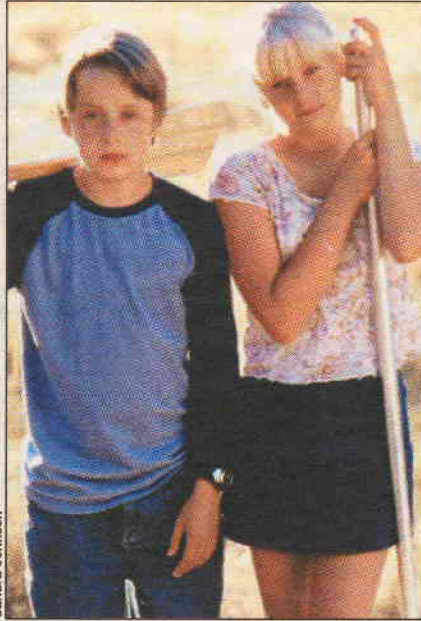


This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ



Sandra Johnson

Mean Creek

★★★

Paramount, \$29.99

This gem of a film follows a couple of kids (including Rory Culkin) as they pull a prank on the school bully. Devastating in its simplicity, it's an auspicious debut for writer-director Jacob Aaron Estes. Other gems just out in special editions: The Beatles biopic "Backbeat" (Universal, \$19.98), "October Sky" (Universal, \$14.98) and "The Crying Game" (Lions Gate, \$19.98).

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

★★ 1/2

Paramount, \$29.99

An all-digital film (with actors inserted into the action) is a landmark. But what matters is the movie — here, it's a pretty funny "Indiana Jones" style adventure with robots attacking Earth. Jude Law and (especially) Angelina Jolie have the right swagger, but Gwyneth Paltrow seems lost. Lots of extras detail how writer-director Kerry Conran managed to pull it off.

Metallica: Some Kind of Monster

★★ 1/2

Paramount, \$29.99

Who knew metal heads had "abandonment issues"? A feast for fans, this overlong documentary watches the massively successful band Metallica deal with rehab, intense pressure and an in-house therapist while recording its new album. As always, directors Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky ("Paradise Lost") get great material, but struggle to craft a narrative.

MacGyver First Season

★★ 1/2

Paramount, \$38.99

Give him a piece of gum and a paper clip and secret agent

Angus MacGyver (Richard Dean Anderson) will be able to pilot a plane by remote control, blow up a building on short notice and do pretty much anything else you can think of.

Also just out: angsty teen drama "One Tree Hill" (Warner Bros, \$59.98), PBS' "Inspector Alleyn Mysteries" (Acorn, \$59.99) and "Homicide: Season Six" (A&E, \$99.95).

**The Warner Gangsters Collection**

★★★★

Warner Bros., \$68.92

Six gangster flicks from the studio that made them better than anyone else, all loaded with extras like commentary, shorts, newsreels and more. Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson and James Cagney snarl their way through "The Public Enemy" (1931), "White Heat" (1949), "Little Caesar" (1930) and much more — including one memorable finale where Cagney heads to the electric chair.