

This week's DVDs

By MICHAEL GILTZ


The Shawshank Redemption / The Untouchables

★★½ each
Warner Bros. /
Paramount; \$26.99 /
\$19.99

Two critical and commercial hits whose stock has dramatically changed. "The Shawshank Redemption" has fine performances, but for some reason, it has become absolutely beloved. "The Untouchables" scored an Oscar for Sean Connery, but it seems rather stodgy now. Both are new deluxe editions.

Fahrenheit 9/11

★★½
Columbia TriStar, \$28.95

Michael Moore's scathing blockbuster may not change the election but it has certainly changed movies by turning documentaries from a quiet little backwater into a commercial force. And it might even be up for the Best Picture Oscar. It's not as good as "Bowling for Columbine," but "9/11" is well worth arguing over. The many extras include White House press conferences and a featurette on life in Iraq before the invasion.

Tanner '88

★★★
Criterion, \$29.95

Political junkies have more than Michael Moore to feast on. Try tackling this landmark Robert Altman/Garry Trudeau HBO series, even though we've become so savvy it seems less remarkable now. Also just out: "George W. Bush: Faith in the White House" (Good Times, \$14.95); "Horns & Halos" (Go Kart Films, \$24.98), a documentary about a controversial Bush biography; and "Brothers in Arms" (First Run, \$19.95), a so-so film about Kerry's time in Vietnam that speaks with men who served alongside him.

Battle of the Planets 25th Anniversary

★★½
Rhino, \$24.95

OK, this gets complicated. "Battle" is a memorable, 85-episode Saturday morning cartoon edited quite a bit from the Japanese original, "Gatchaman." Episodes 1-12 are on individual discs. Episodes 13-24 are on the solid "Battle of the Planets Ultimate Set" (Rhino, \$59.95), which includes the American and the Japanese version of each episode. Unfortunately, this new set — episodes 25-38 — doesn't include the superior Japanese versions of each show, making an already messy compilation rather disappointing.


Aladdin Special Edition

★★★½
Disney, \$29.99

Because it's an adventure film, 1992's "Aladdin" is rarely ranked alongside "Beauty and the Beast" or "The Lion King." But it should be, thanks to very good songs, a star turn by Robin Williams as the genie and a story that never flags. Extras include a virtual tour of the genie's lamp and a new song by Clay Aiken.