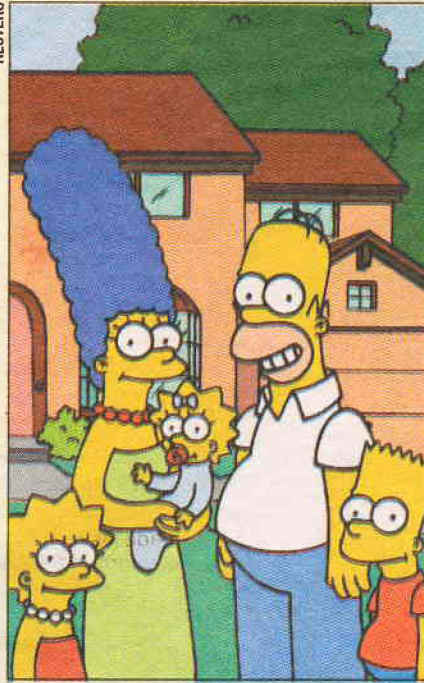


REUTERS



The Simpsons Complete Fifth Season

★★★★
Fox, \$49.98

Watching the brilliant fifth season of "The Simpsons" (with episodes like "Homer Loves Flanders" and "Marge On The Lam") throws into sharp relief how tepid the show has become. It's still good for a few laughs, but please end "The Simpsons" now so it can still maintain a little dignity. Also out: "Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids" (UrbanWorks, \$14.99) and "Family Guy: The Freakin' Sweet Collection" (Fox, \$19.98).

The Manchurian Candidate

★½
Paramount, \$29.95

Anyone who has seen the 1962 original will know what an utterly unnecessary and uninvolved remake this Jonathan Demme movie is. Meryl Streep has a little fun as the political mom-from-hell (and just got a Golden Globe nomination) but Liev Schrieber is far too intelligent a presence to play her passive, brainwashed son. There are deleted scenes and outtakes, all with commentary by Demme, who at least did a mildly better job here than with that still-born "Charade" remake.

De-Lovely

★
MGM, \$26.98

This Irwin Winkler biopic is just as timid towards Cole Porter's sex life as 1946's "Night and Day" starring Cary Grant (a movie they have the temerity to mock). Yes, "De-Lovely" actually admits Porter was gay (a dapper Kevin Kline is occasionally seen in bed with men) but it insists the love of his life was Linda (Ashley Judd), who was really more of a motherly figure to the composer. Shouldn't they know better? One scene with John Barrowman has a little heat (Porter teaches him to

sing "Night and Day") and the musical performances by Robbie Williams, Diana Krall and others keep it bearable.

Napoleon Dynamite

★★½
Fox, \$29.99



This eccentric comedy about a high school nerd extraordinaire was a genuine word of mouth hit that ran for months in theaters. Pluses: a nicely dorky score. Minuses: our hero (Jon Heder) spends most of the movie with his eyes half shut. It's no "Rushmore," but it is harmless fun. The extras include two short films and commentary by the director and star.

White Thunder

★★★★
Image, \$29.99

Robert Flaherty (1922's "Nanook of the North") wasn't the only early filmmaker heading off to exotic lands to capture a vanishing way of life.

New Yorker Varick Frissell did the same in the '20s and this documentary details his final, ill-fated voyage to Newfoundland in 1931.

The real treats are the extras: three complete shorts by Frissell.