

NewReleases

Video updates



Pamela Anderson Lee has trimmed her assets. The "Barb Wire" star has had her silicone implants taken out. A spokesman for Lee told E! the actress "decided to have them removed, not for any medical reasons ... She just wanted her body back to its natural state."
No word yet on the implications on Lee's career, built on playing a buxom blonde on television shows like "Baywatch" and the current "V.I.P." The actress is a giant on the Internet — some 145,000 Web pages use her image.

Best renters at Home Run Video

The top ten video rentals for the week ending April 15 compiled from data from Home Run Video, 4 E. Liberty St., 236-5192, Savannah:

1. Ronin
2. There's Something About Mary
3. What Dreams May Come
4. Clay Pigeons
5. Pleasantville
6. Snake Eyes
7. Pecker
8. Rounders
9. Practical Magic
10. Living Out Loud

Top video renters, nationally

Last week's top five, compiled by Billboard:

1. There's Something About Mary
2. The Waterboy
3. Ronin
4. Bulworth
5. Pleasantville

Top video sellers, nationally

Last week's top five, compiled by Billboard:

1. Tae-Bo Workout
2. Ever After: A Cinderella Story
3. The Rugrats Movie
4. Mulan
5. 101 Dalmations

Other upcoming releases

Belly	Tuesday
The Doors' Collector's Edition	Tuesday
Elizabeth	April 27
NCAA Championship VI	April 27
The Scarlet Pimpernel	April 27
Stepmom	April 27
Babe: Pig in the City	May 4
Suze Orman: Courage To Be Rich	May 4
Taxi Driver: Collector's Edition	May 4
You've Got Mail	May 4
Star Trek: Insurrection	May 11
Saving Private Ryan	May 25

Roger Ebert's reviews

'A Bug's Life' holds the family's attention



"A Bug's Life" is more than striking visuals — the film has a lot of wit that adults will enjoy.

A BUG'S LIFE (G) Pixar, the computer animation studio that made "Toy Story," returns with another great-looking feature-length cartoon. This one is about an ant colony held in thrall to grasshoppers, until the plucky little Flik (Dave Foley) recruits some weird and wacky insects that he thinks are mercenaries (actually, they're refugees from a flea circus). Wonderful visuals, lots of wit. Aimed more at a general family audience than the also entertaining "Antz." Rating: ****

SIMON BIRCH (PG) In small-town New Hampshire in 1964, two friends spend a momentous year. Simon (Ian Michael Smith) is a very bright, brash dwarf; Joe (Joseph Mazello) is his best friend. Joe's mother (Ashley Judd) has never divulged who his father is; Simon's parents don't like him, so he adopts Judd as a parent. Two deaths bring the underlying issues to a head, in a film of such sunny sweetness it's impossible to be cynical about the melodrama.

Recommended for children as well as adults. Rating: ***

THE SIEGE (R) A thriller that borrows from recent headlines to make a story that hits uncomfortably close to home. Arab terrorists blow up targets in New York. Denzel Washington and Annette Bening lead the federal response, and when martial law is declared, a general (Bruce Willis) runs roughshod over the Constitution as he rounds up Arab-Americans. The movie makes an attempt to be balanced. "They love this country as much as we do," one character says of Arab-Americans, unaware of the irony in the "they" and "we." Director Ed Zwick gets a nice look and feel to the scenes of New York in crisis, but the speechmaking and standoffs come a little thick at the end. Rating: ***

MONUMENT AVE. (no MPAA rating) Denis Leary in the best performance of his career, as a Boston neighborhood hood whose life is slowly run-

ning down into drugs, fatigue and despair: Colm Meaney is the head of their car theft operation, Billy Crudup is an ex-con with a big mouth, Famke Janssen is the boss's girlfriend but gets drunk and sleeps around, and Martin Sheen is the cynical detective. A searing portrait of the way gangs confuse their depravity and racism with "upholding the neighborhood." Rating: ***

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (PG-13) Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan star as Steve and Doug, the head-snapping Butabi brothers, in a feature-length but only sketch-deep version of their "Saturday Night Live" characters. They try to pick up chicks with hopeless come-ons, while Dad and Mom (Dan Hedaya and Loni Anderson) encourage a wedding with the daughter of a neighboring business owner. Richard Grieco plays himself, as the TV star who finally gets them into a nightclub. So pathetic, you feel that to laugh would be cruel to the characters. Rating: *

Game of the week

THE GAME: Coolboarders 3
MAKER: 989 Studios
RATING: ***
SYSTEM: Sony PlayStation
SUGGESTED PRICE: \$40
Sony hits the slopes with Coolboarders 3, the latest in its popular snowboarding series. This game combines the realism of a simulation game and the high-flying theatrics of an arcade title. It gives fans of this burgeoning sport a chance to feel what it's like to soar high over tree-tops and perform superhuman aerial stunts without ever breaking a sweat — or a leg. The festivities are spread out over more than 30 courses on six mountains, packed with rails, ramps and obstacles as wacky as a school bus and as dark as a downed airliner. Boarders race over rooftops, through tunnels, under bridges and across busy roads while trying to avoid pine trees, jagged rocks and icy cliffs. As in most sports, speed is an asset, but in snowboarding, it's the ability to pull off complex midair maneuvers that counts the most. Points are awarded for performing combinations of flips, twists and grabs that, if actually attempted by a real snowboarder, would cause his stomach to fall out through his mouth and get caught on his nose ring.

A power meter accurately mimics the jumping action of a real snowboarder as he bends his knees on the approach to a ramp, then springs off the lip. If he times it right, he'll launch himself high into the air. If his timing is off, he could be destined for a face-plant. The arcade action is complemented by realistic details that would rival any simulation. Night skiing features the subtle colors and dramatic shadows of a moonlit evening on the slopes. Even the blinding effect of a snowstorm is amazingly reproduced, with objects in the distance first appearing in shades of gray, then gaining color as they draw near. With extras such as these, Coolboarders 3 does a great job of capturing the snowboarding experience. The only thing it doesn't supply is the sweet, clean mountain air. Suitable for all ages.

Dallas Morning News

Music updates



Pop star Michael Jackson's latest song is reportedly dedicated to the plight of the Kosovo Albanian refugees. All proceeds from the single "What More Can I Give?" will go toward helping the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians who have fled or been driven out of their homes in Kosovo, Jackson told the London Mirror. "The TV footage just breaks my heart. It's just horrifying."

Best-sellers at Disc Jockey

The top ten CDs for the week ending April 15 compiled from data from Disc Jockey in Savannah Mall, 927-7113, Savannah:

Title	Artist
1. Family Values Tour '98	Various artists
2. Soundtrack: The Matrix	Various artists
3. The Slim Shady LP	Eminem
4. Fanmail	TLC
5. 400 Degreez	Juvenile
6. I Am ...	NAS
7. Follow the Leader	Korn
8. E.L.E.	Busta Rhymes
9. Candyass	Orgy
10. 100% Ginuwine	Ginuwine

Billboard's hot 100 singles: Top 10

Title	Artist
1. No Scrubs	TLC
2. Believe	Cher
3. Every Morning	Sugar Ray
4. What's It Gonna Be?	Busta Rhymes
5. Kiss Me	Sixpence None The Richer
6. Heartbreak Hotel	Whitney Houston
7. I Still Believe	Mariah Carey
8. Angel of Mine	Monica
9. C'est La Vie	BWitched
10. Slide	Goo Goo Dolls

The Billboard 200 top albums: Top 10

Title	Artist
1. I Am ...	NAS
2. Fanmail	TLC
3. ... Baby One More Time	Britney Spears
4. Thug Mentality	Krayzie Bone
5. The Slim Shady LP	Eminem
6. Come On Over	Shania Twain
7. Songz	Andrea Bocelli
8. Americana	The Offspring
9. Soundtrack: The Matrix	Various artists
10. The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill	Lauryn Hill

Top Country albums

1. "Come On Over," Shania Twain; 2. "Wide Open Spaces," Dixie Chicks; 3. "Always Never the Same," George Strait; 4. "Double Live," Garth Brooks; 5. "Everywhere We Go," Kenny Chesney; 6. "Faith," Faith Hill; 7. "Something in the Air," Lila McCann; 8. "Trio II," Emmylou Harris; Linda Ronstadt; Dolly Parton; 9. "Classics," Patty Loveless; 10. "Tattoos & Scars," Montgomery Gentry.

Reviews of new CDs

Tom Petty, Blackstreet, Lorrie Morgan, 'Go' soundtrack

TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS: "Echo," Tom Petty's long journey through Americana takes a detour down melancholy side roads on his 14th album. Back with his longtime supporting cast, the Heartbreakers, for their first full-blown collaboration in eight years, Petty unveils an album where the playing is typically top-notch, the organic jangle rich and familiar.

Unlike the Florida rocker's latest two records — "Wildflowers" and "Songs and Music From 'She's the One,'" which toyed with a crisp power pop sound — "Echo" is back to earth, with instrumentation and arrangements that are lean but potent. Petty's weathered eloquence serves him well on tracks both world-weary ("Echo") and upbeat ("Won't Last Long"), and the Heartbreakers make gloriously vivid noise on songs like "About to Give Out." There's a haziness about the album that begs to be misinterpreted as listlessness, and many of these tunes are delivered with a startlingly heavy heart, but ultimately "Echo" is a rewarding reverberation. Rating: ***

VARIOUS ARTISTS: "Original Soundtrack: Go." The soundtrack to the black comedy "Go" is loaded with a similar mix of new and established talent: Last year's one-hit wonder Natalie Imbruglia makes a bid for long-term respect with the perfunctory "Troubled by the Way We Came Together," which isn't as wretched as her detractors might have hoped. Score 1. Fatboy Slim rebounds from "The Rockafeller Skank" with the addictive "Gangster Tripping." Score 3. Esthero tries to keep it critically acclaimed (if commercially snubbed) melancholy techno vibe alive with the new "Song for Holly." Score 2. No Doubt uses "Go" to launch its hotly anticipated forthcoming album; past the rubato intro, the single, "New," is pure Los Angeles pop bliss. Score 3, making the Rating: ***.

BLACKSTREET: "Finally." For an old jack, producer/Blackstreet member Teddy Riley still comes up with new tricks that he thrillingly applies



With his 14th album — "Echo" — being released, Tom Petty remains a major player on the rock scene

to his slick, harmony-filled, beat-heavy rhythm and blues.

On his third CD with vocal partners Chauncey Hannibal, Terrell Phillips and Eric Williams, Riley provides nasty romance; boasts about Benjamins, set to modern soul chords; Zapp-style vocoder tricks ("I Got What You On"); and mesmerizing samples. The only thing finer than snagging the Jacksons' "Can You Feel It" for his own cocky, lean-funk devices is inducing Janet Jackson to play coy and sexy on his shimmering, funny "Girlfriend/Boyfriend" duet.

That humor carries over to forlorn ballads such as "Drama," a tale of losing old lovers and watching new ones "all up in your pockets." But the funnest, warmest moment (next to the title track) is the organ-fueled gospel of "Hustler's Prayer." Rating: ****

LORRIE MORGAN: "My Heart." Last year, Lorrie Morgan made an unsuccessful foray in the more familiar territory of contemporary country, and she turns in one of her most consistent efforts.

For starters, Morgan is working with a passel of songs that have some

actual heft, by current mainstream Nashville standards, from the steel-soaked "Strong Enough to Cry" to husband Jon Randall's "On This Bed" and Kim Richey's rock-edged "Here I Go Again." Even "Maybe Not Tonight," a big, made-for-radio duet ballad with Sammy Kershaw, exhibits taste and restraint.

Throughout the set, the crisp, understated arrangements favor country character over pop fluff, and Morgan is at her most winning. By turns tough and tender, she uses her been-around-the-block maturity to enhance the songs, never cheapening the emotion with melodrama or oversinging. Rating: ****

GEORGE THOROGOOD AND THE DESTROYERS: "half a boy/half a Man." Remember the Himalaya ride at county fairs? If not, it's that merry-go-round that spins at whiplash speed and the music blasting on its speakers is always in time with the thrill of the ride. George Thorogood and the Destroyer's 13th album is precisely the kind of zippy boogie-rock you'd always hear on the Himalaya. Rating: ***

Review: 'Divas Live'

NEW YORK — "VH1's Divas Live '99" — which aired live from New York's Beacon Theatre on Tuesday — was a literal exposé in diva-ness. There was supposedly a near cat-fight during rehearsals between Tina Turner and wannabe diva Elton John. There were wardrobe changes during each commercial break and an A-list of invited guests that ranged from Donald Trump to Armand Assante and Claudia Schiffer.

Tina Turner opened the show — rather fittingly — with an inspired performance of "Simply The Best." (She was received the most enthusiastically by the crowd.) Turner also pulled off what may have been the coolest yet authoritative concert arrival ever — pulling up in a limo just as the band began the first song, then calmly strutting through the front doors, through the lobby and down the main aisle to join the group on stage.

A soulful "Let's Stay Together" followed and Elton John then made the first of several unnecessary appearances — joining Turner for a duet of "The Bitch is Back."

(John seemed more like a party-crasher here than a legendary rocker. Duetting on a song with a diva or two may have been OK, but he had more stage time than some of the women.)

Cher joined Turner for a rousing rendition of "Proud Mary," and later went solo for an energetic performance of "If I Could Turn Back Time."

Jokingly referring to herself as the "Lazarus of pop music," Cher then apparently lip-synched her way through her No. 1 hit "Believe." Although the audience didn't seem to mind that it may have been pre-recorded, it was an odd decision on a night when each diva seemed to be competitively flexing their vocal talents.

A meek Brandy — who offered words of respect to the other performers — performed her hit "Have You Ever?" and was later joined by Faith Hill for a duet of Bryan Adams' "I Do It For You (Everything I Do)." Hill then rolled through her hit "This Kiss."

Other performers included LeAnn Rimes, Whitney Houston, Mary J. Blige and Chaka Khan.

Knight-Ridder Newspapers