

Sneakers

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He's great, and that's an understatement.

River Phoenix plays the delinquent (of course), but his character is unfortunately underdeveloped. The talent was there, but didn't have anywhere to go.

Two of the most entertaining characters come from David Strathairn and Dan Aykroyd. Strathairn portrays Whistler, a blind computer hacker who enjoys Braille copies of "Playboy" while an operation is going down.

Aykroyd is a riot as Mother, a surveillance expert who has some hilarious political idiosyncrasies

(the people who are secretly keeping Kennedy alive after he was shot are the same ones who framed Pete Rose, etc.).

Even with a running time of more than two hours, director Phil Alden Robinson ("Field Of Dreams") keeps the action moving and the minds clicking, actually getting the audience involved with what is going on.

During several of the quiet moments, one can listen to the audience members talk to each other, giving their predictions as to what will go wrong next.

"Sneakers" may turn out to be one of the big money-makers that Hollywood has been desperately looking for since the beginning of the summer.

Shatner novel needs rescue

"Believe"
By William Shatner and Michael Tobias
Berkeley Books



By Sam S. Kepfield
Staff Reporter

Now that "Star Trek VI" is in the can and no more are to follow (or so goes the official Paramount line),

William Shatner tries to keep his hand in the science-fiction game and build upon the success of his Trek series.

Unfortunately, he should have stuck to "Rescue 911." The book "Believe" is what is termed a historical novel, taking characters from history and exaggerating their exploits. The characters here are Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle. The plot revolves around a rivalry between the two men and a newspaper-sponsored contest to prove the existence of supernatural phenomena.

Houdini denies the existence of such things. Doyle is a believer, mainly out of an obsessive desire to contact

dead relatives.

The book is a series of Houdini's death-defying stunts, his attempts to debunk psychics and Doyle's almost pathetic need to resurrect the past.

The incidents, though, are strung together in a haphazard manner, depriving the book of a core narrative continuity. The bland writing style renders the novel even more difficult to get through.

Coming from Capt. Kirk, one might expect a better product. Shatner ought to stick with science fiction in the future and steer clear of New Age-style pseudoscience.

Billy Ray Cyrus fans treated for sunstroke

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — About 40 people needed medical treatment after a hot, daylong wait for country music sensation Billy Ray Cyrus.

Many in the crowd of 50,000 arrived in the morning for the show, set to begin at 5 p.m. Sunday. By late afternoon, 40 people had been treated for problems associated with the heat,

and nearly a dozen were taken to the hospital, paramedic Bob Thatcher said.

The temperature reached only 82, but coolers weren't allowed at the Louisville Motor Speedway and lines to buy soft drinks and beer took over an hour.

Despite the wait, two opening acts and delays that pushed the concert back an hour, fans were thrilled to see one of Kentucky's native sons perform.

"I wouldn't stand out in this heat for just anybody," Vonda Hendricks of Louisville said.

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Stars

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Star Red Army Chorus and Dance Ensemble. Shonin, a prominent Russian hero, was among the first six to be selected on the first Russian space flight.

Nikolai Maiboroda, tenor of the Bolshoi Opera; Nikolai Nizienko, bass of the Bolshoi Opera; and Anatoli Zaitchenko, tenor of the Bolshoi Opera, will join the chorus as well.

The 8 p.m. program will include the United States National Anthem, Russian National Anthem by Glinka, and other Russian and American folk songs.

Boyd Alexander will deliver two pre-performance speeches called "Music in the Military." The first begins 55 minutes before the curtain rises and the second 30 minutes before the performance.

Tickets for The Red Star Red Army Chorus are available for \$26, \$22, \$18; half-price for UNL and Wesleyan students and youth 18

and under. Tickets are available at the Lied Box Office, 12th and R streets weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes before performances.

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