Redford dons the old school'Sneakers'

by Hollywood Rob

Sneakers is one of the most intelligent actioncomedies to come out of Hollywood in a long, long time. Smart scripting and an outstanding ensemble cast make this film extremely enjoyable while it's qualities recall the feeling of a more intelligent Lethal Weapon. That's of course n pre-three days when ethal Weapon meant uality. Sneakers is far rom perfect, but it's better han most of the films of he last few months.

The story kicks off in 969 at a college where lartin (played by a young obert Redford look-alike) nd his buddy Cosmo break to the files of a major ank, via computer, makg generous contributions the likes of the Peace Corps from the accounts of Richard Nixon and other high-ranking government officials. When Redford's character steps out to get the two a pizza, federal officials swoop in and arrest his friend before he even gets out of the parking lot. Martin changes his last

name and begins his 23year lamb from the feds.

In the present, Martin heads a motley crew who survive as raiders hired by large corporations to see how good their security systems actually work. All in Martin's crew have a dark past. Unfortunately, his past is the only one expresentation. In the first act, he introduces the characters and the littleblack-box that is the object of every characters' attention. This box contains the power to break computer codes that are supposedly impossible to decode. This would allow the user to get into systems such as the

begins, it starts to appear as though this team will eat up scenery. And they do throughout the middle portion where it clearly becomes Martin's ballgame. The story becomes intricate-to the point of moments of confusion. In this type of movie, things need to be constructed just as this one is. The story complications demand it.

As the film moves into it's final act, the team unites to pull off "the big caper" that will get things back the way they're supposed to be, even though two of the actors are nearly wasted. River Phoenix really doesn't have much of a part to begin with and Martin's girlfriend (Mary McDonnell) merely services the story as an easy plot device, and not really a character we can care about.

The wrap-up caper is very satisfying, however the film continues on into sappy territory long after the real fun has ended.

Sneakers is a return to a form of sorts for Redford. His idealistic liberal character has been missing from the screen for many years. Keen observers will note the makers of this film took as many shots at the Republican party and our current presidential administration as they could. Overall, even though it probably won't win any awards, Sneakers is the best new bet around for your entertainment dollar.



Sneakers

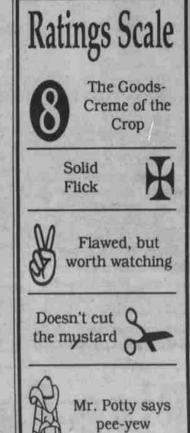
Starring Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier and Dan Aykroyd Directed by Phil Alden Robinson

plored. All the other characters' pasts are probed in a one-line explanation or less. This is more than likely an effect of time constraints as opposed to the lack of character background in the script. The movie runs about two hours and 10 minutes and uses most of it's time very efficiently except for the middle of the film which does it's fair share of dawdling.

Director Phil Alden Robinson (Field of Dreams) has put Sneakers together in a clear-cut three-act Federal Reserve and Air Traffic Control - heavy stuff.

Each member of Martin's team is supposed to have special abilities although Sidney Poitier, an ex-CIA agent, and Dan Aykroyd, an electronics whiz, are the only ones to display them. Aykroyd and Poitier's conflicting personalities feed some highly-comedic moments because Aykroyd's character is slightly crazed and believes everything is based on conspiracy.

Once the second act





Lollapaloozapinion/from page four

group's got some spin on its songs, just a little English that makes them next band, my wife and I groove right along. The highlights of their set were the huge "JESUS" - covered amps and the lead singer Upping us off the sly way: ushing up his shades.

And in the middle of las witches' brew someone dropped Ice Cube. I've got news for all you tough-guyneck-pseudo-skinheadri pricks out there: rap powerful form of music d it is going to be around a long time. So put your ns and swastikas away d ease your frustrations ie way the rest of us huans do it: without blowig people away.

Ice Cube kicked my ass, ure and simple. His pose-or whatever he called hem-owned the stage and he crowd and left no doubt as to what Ice Cube came to do: rap his ass off in front of 20,000 people. As the stadium chanted "Fuck you, Ice Cube," his smile got bigger and bigger until we finally stopped. "Oh. yeahhhh," he said, and

walked off the stage smiling.

While waiting for the contemplated going out to the booths surrounding the amphitheater, but we were both too scared to get up.

We both were having paranoid delusions about the people around us, with me at one point saying in Martha's ear, "We don't fit in," and a few seconds later asking her, "Do you think we're safe?" We both got saved from that mindset by Soundgarden, who diverted our attention completely. I was overwhelmed by this time, my mind racing on to unfamiliar territory while I tried to stay upright in my seat.

The next 45 minutes do

not belong on paper but should only exist in the three-dimensional-a truly weak way of saying I don't have the skill to say what I saw and felt.

Ministry snapped me out of that phase. Once again, the L.A. crowd showed its fickle nature by pissing on Ministry's ener- one was waiting for, the to the show yourself. gy. They were expecting

more from the penultimate band of the day, but Ministry had to go on after dark in order to use their projected visual show. That visual aspect plus the sheer audio attack they unleashed still has my ears and brain ringing.

Red Hot Chili Peppers, took

the stage, but my wife and I left in order to get some food and beat the traffic. For info about the booths. you'll need to look to other articles or go to the inevitable Lollapalooza III next year. If you have any questions, save 'em be-Finally, the band every- cause you should have gone





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