

Shaq attacks silver screen



"Blue Chips"



By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

This film goes beyond the typical sports movie. "Blue Chips," the latest to hit the screen, deals with more than the obvious issue of winning or losing.

Coach Pete Bell (Nick Nolte) is at a crossroads in his career. After coaching the Western University Dolphins to two national championships, he has recently coached his first losing season.

Faced with the dilemma of either attracting top-notch athletes honestly or attracting them illegally using alumni funds to compete with the corrupt recruiting practices of other schools, Coach Bell wrestles with his conscience.

His desire to win, at any cost, finally overcomes his respect for the rules.

His ex-wife and best friend, Jenny (Mary McDonnell), is devastated by his betrayal.

Bell and the best players that money can buy — Shaquille O'Neal, Matt Nover and Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway — win their opening game against Bobby Knight's (played by The General himself) No. 1-ranked Indiana team.

Bell must decide if winning is worth betraying his ex-wife and selling his soul.



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Nick Nolte, second from left, stars with, from left, Shaquille O'Neal, Matt Nover and Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway in "Blue Chips."

"Blue Chips" is an excellent sports film. The basketball characters are all skilled players, and with appearances by Knight, Larry Bird and O'Neal, the show is highly realistic from an athletic point of view.

The acting suffers at points — a sacrifice that is balanced by the excellent athletics—but Nolte shines as usual. As busy as he has been,

he finds time to give his all to a difficult role as a demanding coach corrupted by the system.

O'Neal acts about as well as he raps (which is surprisingly good). As imposing on the screen as he is on the court, his presence delivers most of his lines.

Mary McDonnell has a limited yet essential

part and plays it to the teeth. A fiercely independent woman who can no longer live with Bell but still loves and admires him, she is there to both support and criticize.

"Blue Chips" is a solid show with some great basketball, and it also brings to light some controversial sports issues.

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erage Joe seeing his town decay because of crime and economic slumps, and the search for enemies — where else — in the new faces in town.

"Museum of Heart" is honest and unpretentious. It's a much-needed fix for those who need nothing more in their music than a set of drums, a guitar, bass, piano and the occasional horn section.

— Sam Kepfield

"Jersey Barrier"
Bob Evans
Skene Records!



With a classic name like Bob Evans, (which, by the way, doesn't exist in the same way Pink Floyd doesn't), you'd think a band would have something worthwhile to sing about.

Wrong. The band's debut album, "Jersey Barrier," is the hottest and newest "what not to put in your stereo" item, right up there with dairy products.

Bob Evans' underground sound

should have stayed there, but if you suck and you want everyone to know, you cut an album and go on tour.

Some songs on the album actually start pretty tasty with smooth guitar riffs and definable melodies, but then they disintegrate into this hard-core mess of shouting and other nonrhythmic chaos.

Especially crappy is the third song, "Gill Net," which sounds like a compilation of three or more equally crappy songs competing to come through your speakers. And I don't care if the band is from Minneapolis (a really cool place). It still sucks.

— Marissa Jorgenson

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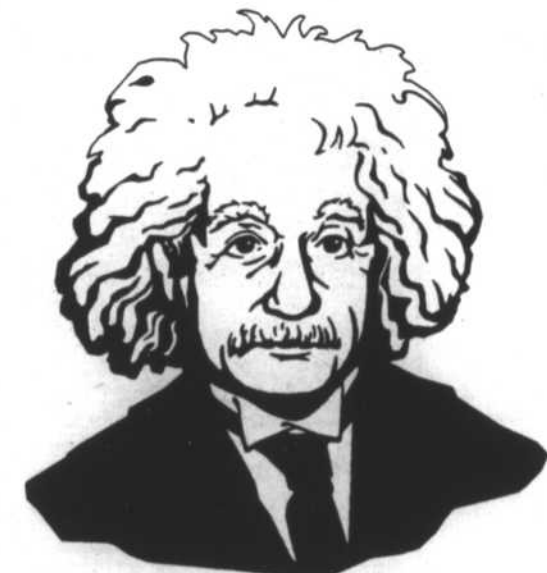
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