

Shaq's acting debut isn't quite up to par

by Portia Kelly
Collegian Staff

"The cream of the crop of high school basketball talent" is the definition of "Blue Chips." This movie starring Nick Nolte and Shaquille O'Neal asks the question, "How far would you go to be the best?"

Pete Bell, played by Nolte is the top coach of Western University in California. He is accused of breaking recruiting laws a few years before and swore he wouldn't do it again. But what do you know, he does it again. How predictable!

He's frustrated because his team had its first losing season and he can't cope with it. So he looks to recruit the best of high school basketball players.

Anfernee Hardaway, who plays Butch McCray, and Matt Nover, whose character is Ricky Rhoe, are the two most highly recruited and #1 picked players in high school.

These guys aren't easy to please, but Coach Bell gets them to sign letters of intent at Western University. However,

financially as well as his reputation.

Rhoe wants \$30,000 in cash as well as a new tractor for his father's farm. Whoa!! What a deal (I'm being sarcastic). What kind of bribe is that? The coach gets mad and throws him out, but later gives him what he wants.

Now, McCray didn't ask for anything, his mother sure did. She receives a large house out of the ghetto, and a great job at some huge company. Nice mom, huh?

Neon Bodine, (Shaquille O'Neal) an unknown former Army officer, plays basketball with the zest and fire of the real Orlando Magic star.

He receives a fully-loaded Lexus which he doesn't even know about. Now that's a great deal!

Ed O'Neill stars as the reporter who tries to prove that Western University is breaking the recruiting rules. He does a good job badgering Coach Bell but doesn't get enough evidence to create a case against the University.

it's not being shown. The problem isn't with the story line or plot, but with the performances. The characters make everything look predictable and they don't surprise you.

A movie should grab you and take you in; this one lacks soul and spirit.

It has some famous people making cameo appearances like Larry Bird, Bobby Hurley, George Lynch, Dick Vitale, and Rick Patino to name a few. However, these people don't help the movie out too much.

What happens to Coach Bell and his star players? You will just have to watch and see if you want to. Believe me, if you are a basketball fanatic, then you probably will enjoy the movie. If you are a real smart basketball fanatic then wait for the "Michael Jordan Story," which will probably come out in the theaters real soon (I'm being sarcastic once again) and skip this one.

"Vital Signs:" an experience in life

by Jen Toubakaris
Collegian Staff

Well, where do I begin? I've reviewed several plays since I've been writing for *The Collegian*, but none are quite like "Vital Signs."

It's a play with no plot; instead it has a strong theme that ties the scenes together.

"Vital Signs" explores experiences of life. Some are bizarre, like Spiderman saving a young couple from a burning building, and some are commonplace, like a mother yelling at her children.

The acting overall is very effective. There are serious scenes such as Conchita Dixon playing a "Nightmare Daughter" who is nagged by her parents about her weight.

Other scenes tackle serious issues with a comical style. Barbara Welton plays a telephone consultant on a drug hot line.

When giving advice to a woman about her addict boyfriend, she says, "He's going to nosebleed all over your prairie quilt."

What I enjoyed the most about "Vital Signs" is the hilarious scenes it contains. In one scene, Lori Anna Dyer plays a employee at Graceland. When arguing with a customer, she screams out, "Elvis died for your sins, and Mick Jagger is the anti-Christ!"

The play contains other effective performances by Jamele Adams, Kathleen Devine, Luz Gandulla, Ericha Hagenbuch, Greg Johnson, and Pamela Seidl.

"Vital Signs" achieves what I feel is its main goal: to remind people that experiences, either good or bad, keep us alive and content with living.

Kathleen Campbell's production of "Vital Signs" continues at the Studio Theater. Future show dates are Feb. 23-26 at 8:00 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 2:30 p.m.

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The Matchbox Players Presents



Vital Signs
by Jane Martin

Studio Theater
Penn State-Behrend

February 18-19, 8:00 p.m.
February 20, 2:30 p.m.
February 24-26, 8:00 p.m.
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