

2 Shows: 8 & 10 p.m.

Advance tickets available at Marooned CD's and Tip Top Records in Bryan



Shaquille O'Neal stars as a highly sought-after college basketball recruit in "Blue Chips."

## 'Blue Chips' - more than basketball

**By Cliff LeBlanc** THE BATTALION

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REVIEWS

"Blue Chips" Starring Nick Nolte, Mary McDonnell, J.T. Walsh, Shaquille O'Neal and **Anfernee Hardaway** Directed by William Friedkin Rated PG-13 Playing at Hollywood USA

Nick Nolte stars in this season's first big sports film. And being a big college basketball fan, I had heard all about the film last summer and I couldn't wait to see it.

But this is not a film about the tactical skill of coaching or the courage of the star athletes. It touches on a tender subject in all college sports, the paying of play-

ers for their play. Nolte plays Pete Bell, a nationally known basketball coach who has fallen on bad times. He has leave with the feeling that he was just had his first losing season and he wants to win again, but he must first get talent.

Nolte tries to find the players that will lead him to victory. He finds three "blue chip" prospects played by Shaquille O'Neal, An-fernee "Penny" Hardaway and Matt Nover. He realizes that he can get all three of these players for his team, but only if he can give them something in return. Nolte resorts to using an alumnus (J.T. Walsh) to pay the play-ers for him and then does not want to accept that he is cheating in the game that he loves so much.

Instead of using actors for the basketball footage, the producers used real basketball players which gives the effect of a documentary. Some of the best players in the world are in these scenes; so, what could go wrong?

Unfortunately, it seems they forgot about actors. Nolte dominates the film so much that you in every scene. And O'Neal should stick to basketball and those sneaker commercials. He's no Harrison Ford, or even Tom Cruise. He's more like Big Bird.

Thursday, February 2

However, the basketball is amazing and the sound is wonderful because it sounds like you are right there for the games.

Over 50 former college players have spot parts as players on opposing teams or back-ups to Nolte's team. You can really feel the emotion when Shaq or Hardaway dunks the ball.

"Blue Chips" is not a film about basketball. Instead, its about the testing of the human soul set against a basketball background. It also makes a point to raise issues like the importance of a college education and glitches in the college recruiting process.

In the end, it's a good film for all ages and well worth the money if you realize it is not a basketball film.

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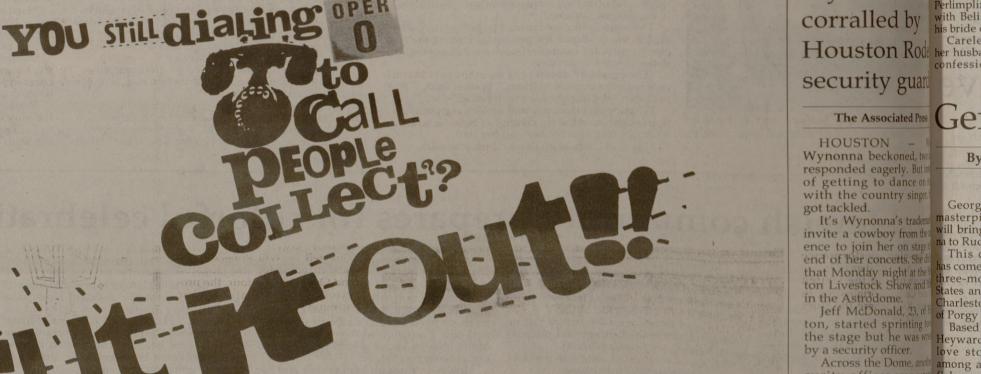
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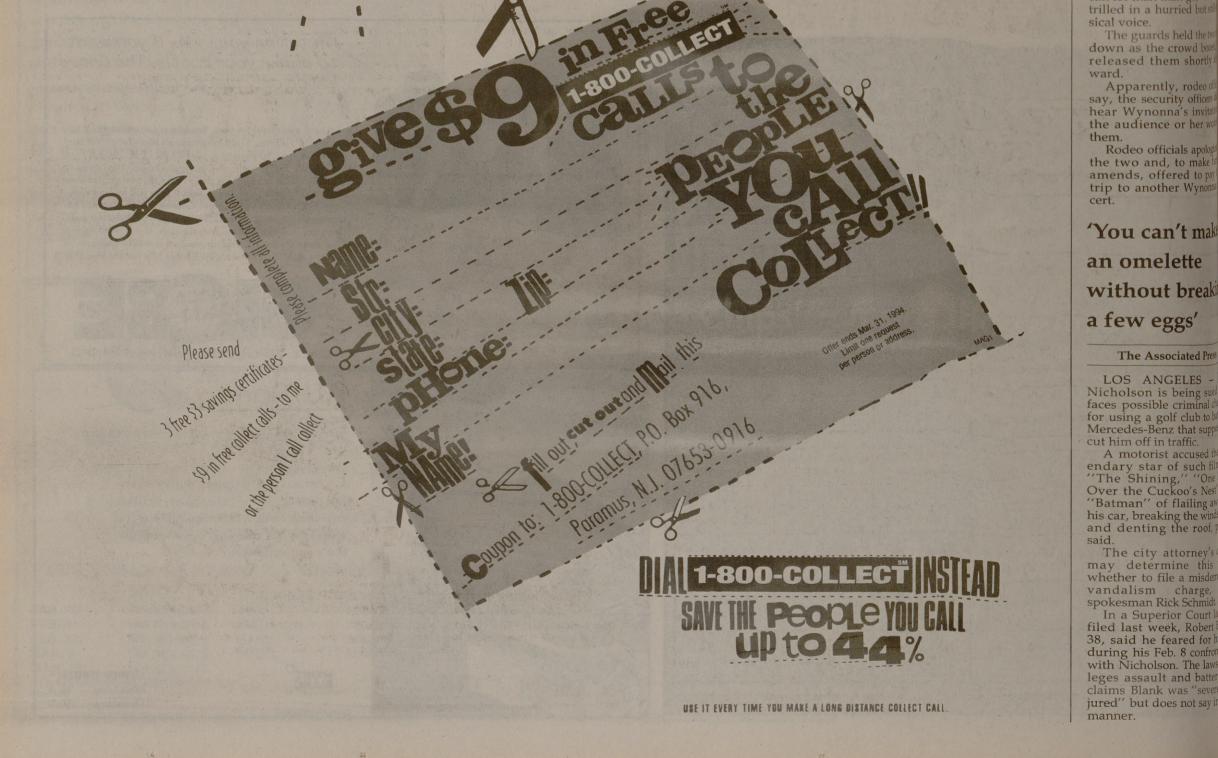
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## The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Nicholson is being su faces possible criminal for using a golf club to Mercedes-Benz that supp cut him off in traffic.

A motorist accused endary star of such fil "The Shining," "One Over the Cuckoo's Nes "Batman" of flailing at his car, breaking the win and denting the roof,

The city attorney may determine this whether to file a misde vandalism charge, spokesman Rick Schmid

In a Superior Court filed last week, Robert 38, said he feared for during his Feb. 8 confro with Nicholson. The law leges assault and batte claims Blank was "seve jured" but does not say i