

Rocky ends in style

By MARK DAVIS
Staff Writer

The fight song blares, the crowd cheers, and BOOM - the Rocky saga continues.

You have to hand it to Sylvester Stallone. There are a number of people in Hollywood who can gross big bucks. There are also a number of people who can put out quality movies with a message. There are not, however, too many people who can do both; Stallone is one of the few.

All of which is a prelude to *Rocky IV*. This time around, the United States is pitted against the Soviet Union, as anyone with access to a television for the past six months must know. The Russians announce that they've developed the ultimate athlete, a 6-foot-6-inch, 240-pound boxer named Drago (Dolph Lundgren). Rocky's old friend/nemesis Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers) decides to fight the Soviet fighter in order to score a few points for the red, white, and blue — not to mention for himself. When Creed is killed in the ring by the devastating Drago, you-know-who challenges the Russian in an attempt to avenge his friend's death.

This is a more ambitious movie than any of the previous *Rockys*. Through creative camera techniques, fast cutting, and good lighting, Stallone's direction (he also wrote the script) proves he knows what to do behind the camera. The supporting characters are more drawn out than before as well. Rocky's wife, Adrian (Talia Shire), his cynical brother-in-law, Paulie (Burt Young), and Creed are given larger roles, with Creed providing much of the drama and Paulie supplying much of the humor. Finally, the soundtrack is expanded, featuring Survivor, Kenny Loggins, and John Cafferty among others.

Contrary to popular belief, Stallone can act. He's not Alec Guinness, mind you, and he doesn't try to be. But he knows his characters and how best to project them. Unlike a Chuck Norris or Arnold Schwarzenegger, he brings a mind and soul to his role. Weathers,

cinema

Shire, and Young should have their roles down pat by now, and they do. It's hard to evaluate Lundgren's acting ability, as Drago contains the emotional diversity of a Honda.

People who enjoy movies with symbolism should have a field day with this one. America vs. Russia, technology vs. nature, being what's inside you vs. changing yourself — the list goes on. One begins to wonder when Stallone's obsession with painting all Commies as bad guys will end. At a time when relations between the superpowers has never been so dicey, this movie isn't likely to put an end to the Cold War.

Criticizing the credibility of a *Rocky* movie would be futile, since realism is obviously not the crucial factor. The fight scene between Rocky and Drago, however, is a bit ridiculous. If Larry Holmes or Michael Spinks took one-tenth as many punches as these guys take, he would be unconscious in the first round. In spite of that, though, the scene is well-choreographed.

One other criticism that might be more appropriate is that Stallone seems to feel that every 15 minutes he has to have a scene containing at least one inspirational speech. O.K., it's an inspirational movie, but there is a limit. A little of that stuff goes a long way.

Sylvester Stallone has said that this will be the last *Rocky*. Whether or not this is true is another story, as he made the same claim after *Rocky III*. But this movie does provide a fitting finale to the series. As Stallone himself puts it, once you defeat an entire nation, where can you go from there? Here's hoping that this will indeed be the final curtain call for Mr. Balboa. There were a few mistakes along the way, but Stallone can move on to other things comfortable in the knowledge that his alter-ego went out in style.



Dolph Lundgren and Sylvester Stallone in 'Rocky IV'

Triples: too close for comfort

By JO FLEISCHER
Staff Writer

Fifty-two male students are still living in tripled dormitory rooms, but there are vacancies for women, said Collin Rustin, associate director of university housing.

The remaining male triples are mainly in south and middle-campus dorms. Female triples were eliminated in the seventh week of the semester because of a heavier turnover rate, Rustin said.

"We're talking to these students on an almost daily basis, and trying to get them into double rooms," he said.

The delay in untripling students in many cases was because students withdrew without notifying the housing department within the 48 hours required by their housing contracts, Rustin said.

More students had to be housed in triples this year because more of those who were accepted chose to come to UNC, Rustin said.

Students who live in tripled rooms will be refunded 20 percent of their room rate on a pro-rated basis. Those who spend the whole semester with two other roommates will receive \$115,

Rustin said. The refund was determined by evaluating the cost of housing an additional person in a room, he said.

Gary Rains, a student who lived in a triple last year, said the arrangement was very inconvenient. "It was impossible to find time to study when one of them wasn't playing the stereo or having a party," he said.

All students will be in double rooms by the beginning of the spring semester, Rustin said. It is still important for students who do not intend to return in the spring to notify the housing department, he said.

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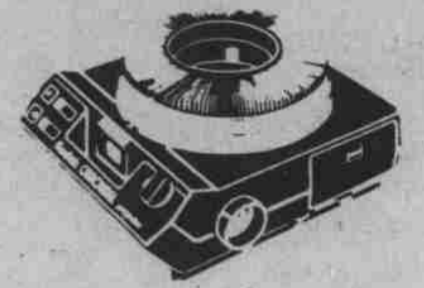
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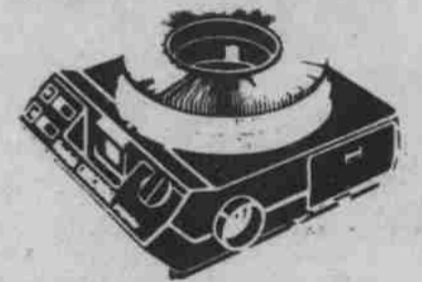
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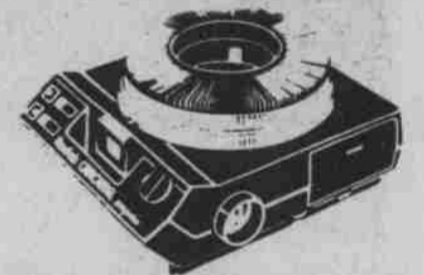
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