

# Rocky: profound statement about human condition

**Geoff Strople**

One comes away from viewing the film **Rocky** emotionally high. The source of this rush, however, is not immediately self-evident in the jumble of competing ideas and impressions which crowd the senses. Only one perception is clear - this is a film which you not only enjoyed, but which, by saying something very basic about the human condition, has struck a responsive chord in you.

**Rocky** is the story of a heavy-weight boxer of mediocre talent and intelligence who supplements his meagre income from a declining boxing career by "enforcing" for a loan shark. Through a chance combination of circumstances, Rocky gets a crack at the heavy-weight title in a much publicized bout against the reigning champ - a character patterned on Muhammed Ali. With only five weeks to fight night, Rocky, serious in his bid for the heavyweight crown, embarks on a vigorous training programme during which he regains not only his physical stamina but his self respect, totally unaware that he is the object of a fight promoter's publicity stunt. The film climaxes with the powerful and dramatic title fight which has the movie audience cheering for the underdog in a scene which captures the suspense and brutality of the boxing ring and vivid detail.

**Rocky**, however, is not a movie about boxing. Neither is it merely the hackneyed chronicle of a poor boy who makes good or sentimental nonsense about a rugged individualist who conquers all. Sylvester Stallone, who both wrote the screenplay and acted in the title role, has created a film which avoids sentimentality in making a fundamental statement about the

**Prof resigns over**

## Womens course cutback

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- A University of British Columbia sociology professor has resigned because of university administration's neglect of the women's studies program.

Dorothy Smith, whose resignation is effective June 30, said in an interview March 7 cutbacks have caused sharply increased faculty teaching loads and may cause the women's studies program she is teaching to end this year.

She said the burden of provincial government education cutbacks is being placed on the shoulders of the faculty, making it more difficult for them to do a proper job teaching.

"The over-all problem with the teaching thing results from the provincial government," she said. "It's all dumped on the faculty."

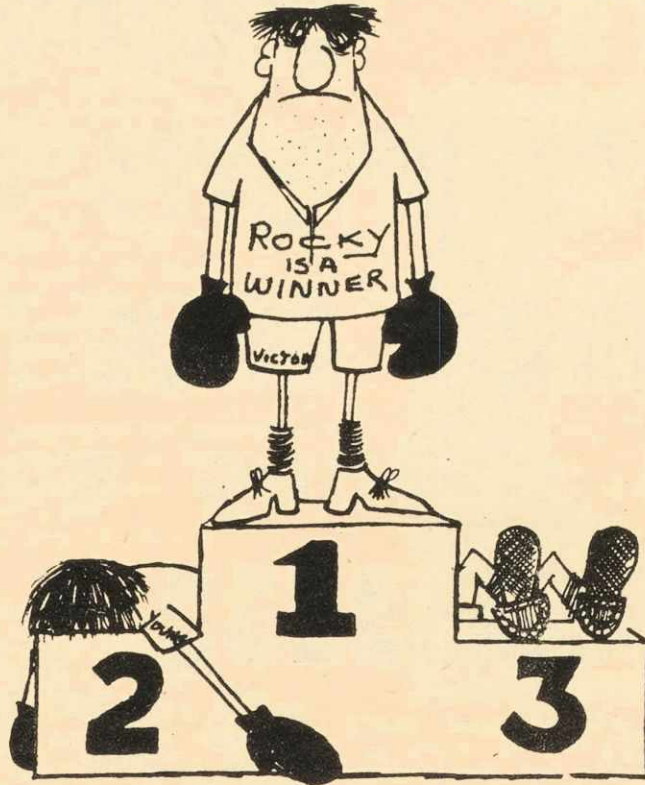
"You're shortchanging students. That appears to be the general trend - at least in the faculty of arts."

Smith, who has taught here for eight years, said that until two years ago, two courses and graduate students were the normal course load for a professor. Now the normal load is three courses as well as graduate students.

"You have to go back to formal, big courses and giving formal exams." She said professors have less time to see students and give individual attention to their work.

Smith said women's studies 222, which is supposed to be taught by four professors from different disciplines, is being taught this year by herself and anthropology professor Helga Jacobson, who will be on leave next year.

Also in the program is a women's literature course taught by dean of women Margaret Fulton, an anthro-



human condition. **Rocky** is a film about striving; about the fulfillment of human potential; about the element in all human beings which is noble, courageous, and worthy of emulation but which, as the film itself depicts, is often in the corruption, sham and alienation so common in Western society - a society in which unrealized potential is the rule rather than the exception. The film is reminiscent of a moving scene from Ken Kesey's **One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest** in which McMurphy bets that he can lift an impossibly heavy control panel. After several herculean efforts, McMurphy gives up but not in defeat as he admonishes his fellow patients with the simple words "At least I tried."

**Rocky** is an excellent film both

artistically and technically. That such an unlikely plot and conclusion comes off as totally believable is a credit to the performance of Stallone and the supporting cast including Talia Shire as Rocky's girlfriend and Burgess Meredith as his trainer. In these days of exorbitant admission costs this is a movie well worth seeing.

# MARCH

York University

## Theatre Performing Ensemble

An intensive two year professional program in acting and dramaturgy leading to the degree

## Master of Fine Arts

B.A. or its professional equivalent required for admission

Evaluating now for Fall 1977

For further information contact:

Mrs. Magda Davey,  
Graduate Admissions Officer  
Faculty of Graduate Studies  
York University  
Downsview (Toronto) Ontario  
M3J 1P3  
(416) 667-2426

# CONTIKI, WE SHOW YOU EUROPE!

- Camping holidays for young adults, 18 thru 30 years - 3 to 12 weeks from as little as \$341.
- Travel in specially chartered custom built Mercedes-Benz Buses, safe reliable with highly trained Drivers.
- Meet guys and gals from other Commonwealth countries as well as Europe.
- An experienced Courier accompanies each Tour and you will enjoy 3 meals a day, prepared under the supervision of a 'SuperCook'.



**For your FREE colour brochure, bookings and other information take this advertisement to your local Travel Agent.**

**CONTIKI**

'Europes Top Camping Tour Operator'

ADMIT ONE

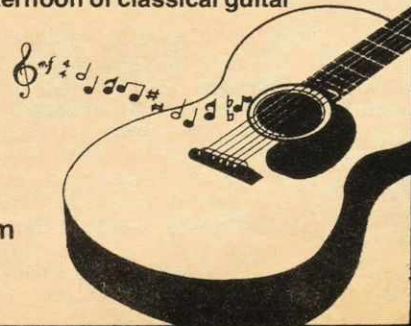
## Danny Beckerman

A Sunday afternoon of classical guitar

Sunday, March 27  
3:00 p.m.

admission \$1.00  
students & senior citizens Free

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium  
Dalhousie Arts Centre  
Tickets & Information: 424-2298



ADMIT ONE