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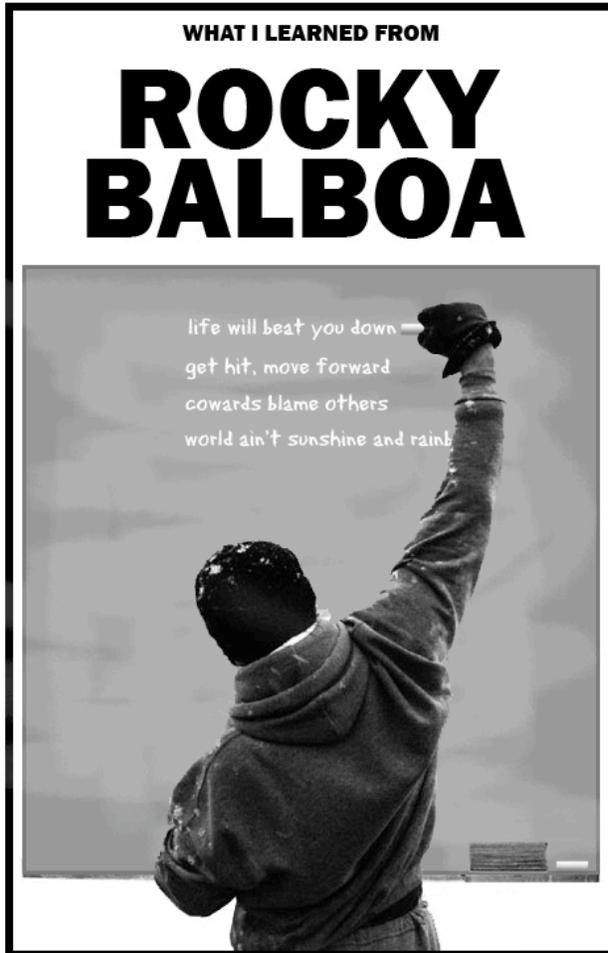
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october 1, 2008

What I learned from Rocky Balboa...



...and hope to pass on to you

In 2006, the latest installment of the Rocky series came out. I made jokes about it (in addition to Sly's newest Rambo offering) but the other day I found Rocky Balboa at the library and decided to give it a shot. I wasn't paying for it, after all, so what did I really have to lose? This is not a review of the movie, but rather a look at one specific quote of Rocky's. For those who've seen it, you'll no doubt remember:

Let me tell you something you already know. The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place and I don't care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard ya hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done! Now if you know what you're worth then go out and get what you're worth. But ya gotta be willing to take the hits, and not pointing fingers saying you ain't where you wanna be because of him, or her, or anybody! Cowards do that and that ain't you! You're better than that!



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[school](#)
[travel](#)
[work](#)

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[september 2008](#)
[august 2008](#)
[july 2008](#)
[june 2008](#)
[may 2008](#)
[april 2008](#)
[march 2008](#)
[february 2008](#)
[january 2008](#)

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It may sound laughable when reading it, but Stallone is actually pretty good in this flick. He says this to his son as he has been confronted about his decision to fight again. I think these words are applicable to everyone, but they are especially relevant to students and the twenty-something crowd. I would dare say that most of you have found yourself in undesirable positions. You're unhappy. You deserve better. You can't get a break. Enter Rocky, stage left.

It really is amazing what a person can achieve when they apply themselves. Some superstars are born; they just have undeniable raw talent. They work at it and succeed. Others have the world handed to them, and experience privileged lives. Then there are those regular, everyday, normal people who go after their goals and capitalize on their own skills and the right opportunities.

It's like Rocky says. Life WILL beat you down. Everyone has obstacles, problems and set-backs. What will determine your success is your desire to get back up and move forward. Things have changed drastically from when our parents were our age. You've probably heard people talk about the quarter-life crisis (if not, I'll likely write about it soon) or how 30 is the new 20 (another potential blog topic). It's not easy now, and it probably never will be. The world is undergoing immense shifts. Can you take those hits and keep moving forward, towards your goals and aspirations?

Sylvester Stallone himself (nevermind his character) was about 60 years old when he filmed Rocky Balboa. Sure, he could have left the Rocky franchise alone and accepted that his acting career was pretty much done. I mean, the guy was voted "Worst Actor of the Century" by the Razzie Awards in 2000. That's gotta hurt a little. But he took the hits and kept moving forward. Now, a relatively unknown (albeit awesome) Canadian blogger has written about him on a bank-related website.

Hey Mr. Stallone, what does redemption taste like?

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