

Entertainment Calendar

Friday, June 6

8:30 p.m. — Pocket Face, Basic Assumption, Alpha Charlie, The Rhythm Pimps (rock), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave., 687-2746, \$5 door

9:30 p.m. — The Ovulators, Dan Jones and The Squids (rock), Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd., 431-6603, \$3-\$5

9:30 p.m. — Side Project (jazz/funk/mood with female vocals), Luna, 30 E. Broadway, 344-6948, \$5 door

9:30 p.m. — The Visible Men (pop), Wild Duck Music Hall, 169 W. Sixth Ave., 485-3825, \$8 door

Saturday, June 7

8 p.m. — Black Eyed Peas (hip-

hop), McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette St., 345-4442, \$16 advance, \$18 door

8 p.m. — Benefit Poetry Slam featuring Buddy Wakefield (poetry slamajamma), Foolsap Books, 780 Blair Blvd., 681-9212, sign up between 7:30-8 p.m., \$3-\$10

8:30 p.m. — Damien Jurado, Rocky Votolato, Adam Voith, Mike Barnhill (singer songwriters/spoken word), WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave., 687-2746, \$5 door

9 p.m. — Harry Manx (blues), Luna, 30 E. Broadway, 344-6948, \$12 door

9:30 p.m. — 4-Word (raggae), Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair

Blvd., 431-6603, \$3-\$5

Sunday, June 8

9 p.m. — Switchfoot (hard Christian metal), Wild Duck Music Hall, 169 W. Sixth Ave., 485-3825, \$8 door

Monday, June 9

10 a.m. — Furniture Design Show (art exhibit), LaVerne Krause Gallery, Lawrence Hall, 346-2057, free

Tuesday, June 10

8 p.m. — Bluegrass Jam (open jam), Sam Bond's Garage, 407 Blair Blvd., 431-6603, free

8 p.m. — Stacey Earle (folk), Cafe Paradiso, 115 W. Broadway, 484-9933, \$10.50 door

Rocky

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chapter of the story. Everyone wanted Rocky to win that first fight with Apollo Creed. This sequel fulfills that desire in grand fashion.

"Rocky II" harkens back to a simpler time, though I doubt gender roles were ever as clearly defined as Stallone would have us believe. This is a world where men are men and women... well, women, it seems existed to validate a man's dreams. But it's hard to resist the squeaky clean ideal that a man is only as strong as the love of a good woman. Ah, if only life were that simple.

"Rocky II" picks up right where the original movie left off. Balboa recovers from the pummeling he suffered and is told an eye injury will keep him from ever fighting again. That's fine with Balboa. He simply wants to marry Adrian (Talia Shire), make a little money and raise a family. He tries to be a pitchman for after-shave but can't remember his lines and applies for office jobs. But it's hard for people to take him seriously. One interviewer asks, "Why

don't you fight, Rocky? I hear you're a great fighter." Rocky's naive response? "Well, fighting's great but I'd like to get a job sitting down like you."

Rocky can't deny his true calling and, against the wishes of Adrian, begins training for his rematch with the champ. However, without the support of his wife, Rocky's heart just isn't up to the challenge. Then the ultimate melodramatic tragedy befalls our hero: Adrian falls into a coma during childbirth — you've gotta love that. Rocky holds a bedside vigil until she awakens and she tells him to do one simple thing: "Win." And so the music swells and the Italian Stallion is ready to kick some ass. But does he?

Rocky wins the fight. (Sorry if that ruins it for you) But I have to wonder if he really deserved it any more than Apollo. I mean, Apollo basically beats the shit out of him for 15 rounds. The two fall to the mat in the final moments of the match. It's a heart-stopping moment that sees Rocky rise to his feet first to claim the title. But does that necessarily make him the better fight-

er? It is said that Rocky wins with his heart but Apollo displays as much, if not more, heart than Rocky. He comes out and fights 15 skillful rounds, beats Rocky to death and then happens to get up a split second behind the Italian Stallion. So can it truly be said that Rocky wins? I suppose these are questions left to the movie gods of history.

"Rocky III" is also a worthy — albeit a tad cheesier — successor to the first two movies. Rocky gets a little arrogant and must rediscover humility on his way to a title fight with Mr. T — I'm sorry, I mean Clubber Lang.

Then "Rocky IV" changed everything. In that one, Balboa was literally fighting a machine — the walking Russian steroid known as Drago. The film and character became upstaged by Stallone's arrogance and bullshit flag-waving politics, not to mention James Brown. Don't get me wrong. "Rocky IV" is a fun movie — actually, for all the reasons it's tacky. "Rocky V" is just a steaming pile of shit.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailymerald.com.

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THIS WEEK AT JOHN HENRY'S

WEDNESDAY
DANCE HALL DJ'S

EARLY SHOW - NICE TIME:
BOB MARLEY ARCHIVES 8PM FREE

EVERY THURSDAY
9:30 PM \$3

80'S NIGHT

FRIDAY • 6TH

TYMPANIC

AND GUESTS

\$5
10 PM

\$7
9:30 PM

ZEKE

CAMAROSMITH
THE COURTESY CLERKS
HELLENBACKS

SATURDAY • 7TH

SUNDAY • 8TH

PLANET QUEEN

GLITTER/GLAM DJ NIGHT

\$2
10 PM

MONDAY • 9TH

LIVE HIP HOP

W/ STRANGEOFOLKS

\$2
10 PM

TUESDAY • 10TH

8 PM CHEVRON

RING
CICADA

10 PM CAVEAT

BASIC ASSUMPTION

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