



# ROCKY



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## GC RECORD SMASHED



This weekend marks the breaking of the record for most RHPs's at a cinema in Warwick. The Meadowbrook enters into it's 36th week, eclipsing the 35-week run by General Cinemas in the Warwick Mall during 1984. Tonight's cast will be comprised of 7 people who did the show at GC .

### THE GC STORY

Starting in February of 1984, attendance at GC blasted out of the gate. For the first 6 weeks, attendance was over 200 for 8 of the 12 shows. One Friday night crowd was 250! The biggest night was 282! The largest weekend combined was 512. Weeks 7-10 were still strong, with over a hundred every night. For the next 13 weeks, attendance began to go down. The average was about 70. The begining of the end started at week 23, when the show was moved from cinema 1 to cinema 2. Cinema 1 was decent to do the show in. It was similar to the Meadowbrook, except that there wasn't nearly as much room in front. It also din't go as far back, but it was wider. The audience and cast were physically very close, which was good. Unfortunately, and probably in part because the crowds were big, the cast took much abuse. Twice we had to quit. Even worse, many audience members were hurt. One night an audience member was thrown thru a glass door by a cop. Another night, someone put his fist thru another glass door, ran away, then had to run back because a large artery in his arm was severed.

The move to cinema 2, though, combined with a lack of advertising, is what seemed to kill Rocky. There was room to do the show up front, but there was only 1 isle and the seats went way back. Doing the show there was like being in a vacuum. There was no connection between cast and audience, or even audience and audience. Attendance for the last 12 weeks plummeted, often not reaching 100 for both nights combined. The show died a mercifull death in October.

GC had both it's good and bad point's and moments. It is important to remember both. We even had an arrest one night when 3 people started sabotaging cast automobiles! The show's run at GC did produce some firsts for the cast. We had our first road trips, first to the Casino Theatre in Newport for 2 weeks, then later to Groton, Conn. Another first was a "backup" cast, namely, a cast to do the show in our absense. We gained many good cast members from that. We also began a relationship with the Groton cast which produced future cast switchings.

In 1984, the cast was much smaller than it is today. Whereas today we can call on up to 25 or so people, we could call on only about a dozen before the "backup" cast came into play. Many nights, people doubled up. The cast you saw did not change much week to week. Scheduling was very difficult. Lights were done by cast members doing the show that night. Props could not be left at the theatre. We had to load them in and out every night. And we weren't allowed in until about 11:40. No one even heard of a pre-show. Costumes were not what they are today, but were improving. Generally, though, most people didn't have as much. The cops were simply inept and lazy.

### LAST WEEK

ATTENDANCE PRIZES

FRI  
SAT

The cast ate at Pizza Hut before the show and Bick-fords after. Bill Quarters was the manager, with Greg and Danny his faithful ushers. Four regulars in our cast, plus 4 occasionals, are all that's left. WARWICK ROCKY was the paper. With that - bye. RR

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? WRITE :

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