

# 'NAM ON THE RERUN

By Helen Knode



**F**irst Blood was a smart film about how the intractably ferocious memory of Vietnam—personified by John Rambo, veteran—had returned to wreak its vengeance on an America that, because of its refusal to think about our involvement in Southeast Asia, had failed to reconcile its mythologies with the lessons we learned over there. In *Rambo*, which grossed \$32,548,262 in the first six days of its North American release, the vet with a gripe has been transformed into a vigilante—Bernard Goetz with biceps—at murderous odds with all groups and structures belonging to the

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