

# CINEMA

## 'Attla' portrays Alaskan folk hero



What looks on the surface to be a hybrid of Walt Disney's "True Life Stories" and the latest installment of "The Wilderness Family" is in reality a beautiful, tender film about a courageous native Alaskan — "Attla."

Though a little rough around the edges and sort of predictable plot-wise, "Attla" is an honest treatment of the native ways of life not often portrayed in films today.

The movie has an intriguing history. Originally titled "Spirit of the Wind," the film was funded by Doyon Limited (an Alaskan investment corporation), for the purpose of giving Alaskan and Indian children a modern ethnic hero.

Producer-director Ralph Liddle and cinematographer John Logue, documentary filmmakers, came to Doyon with their idea of making a film about Alaskan native and world champion dog-sledder George Attla, a true unsung hero.

The film was completed in 1980 and released theatrically in Alaska and at numerous film festivals across the nation.

Though it was the third highest grossing film in Alaska as of last year and a multiple festival-award winner, the Hollywood establishment views "Attla" as an uncommercial feature. Liddle explains: "Hollywood has three rules: don't make films about minorities, about animals, or about snow. We've got all three."

Liddle and Logue spent a couple of years getting the rights to their film back after a now-bankrupt distributor acquired them. Now the film is the first release by a company new to film — the record producer Windham Hill. Liddle, Logue, Windham Hill and numerous friends are nurturing it through a grass-roots release in its first test market: Eugene.

"If 'Attla' can't make it Eugene," explains Liddle, "it can't make it anywhere."

George Attla was born into a backwoods trapping family, but was forced to grow up in the city when he contracted tuberculosis. Seven years later he returned home, only to suffer a mild culture shock and a feeling of insecurity, due to the fact that one of his knees was fused straight because of his disease.

Though he tried to return to the city again, Attla realized his heart belonged in the backwoods — trapping, fishing, and especially running a sled team.

The acting talents of Pius Savage (George) and George Clutesi (his father) seem to alienate some viewers simply by the foreign-ness of the style. True, some of the delivery sounds stilted or forced, but the speech pattern is actually a fairly accurate re-creation of native speaking.

The only complaint I have with the film is the simplicity of its plot. But even that is only partially a problem because the plot is nominal. The thrust of the film rests not there, but on the cultural surroundings and contrasts to civilized society, dealt with honestly in terms of George's experience — not, refreshingly, from our points of view.

"Attla" is a direct, straightforward film. Logue's photography is breathtaking, particularly in the outstanding sequence when the river's ice breaks. Liddle sublimates style for content, using predominantly medium shots and long takes for an almost neo-realist look. The beautiful landscape shots are his only vice, and I've no complaint there.

Outstanding music by Buffy Sainte Marie and beautiful guitar solos by William Ackerman round out the production and smooth over many of the rough edges. This is a simple effort at heart, but warmth overcomes most complaints one would have with the film.

Sean Axmaker



### Philip Mitchell

Winner of the 1984 Alicia Woods Poetry Award

**Will Be Reciting Originals Plus Selections From Ginsberg and Amichai on Tuesday,**

**November 20, 1984. 7:00 PM 167 EMU**

## emu

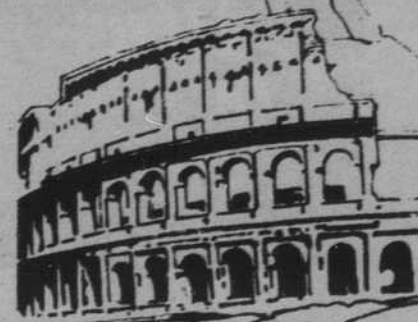
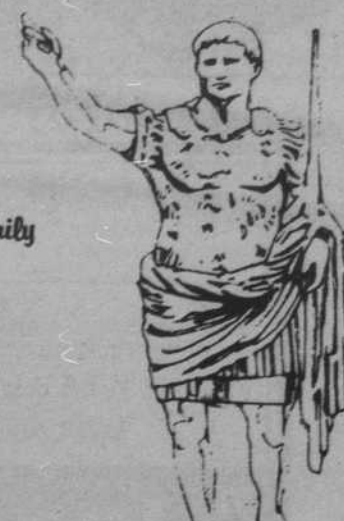
What do the EMU Skylight Refectory and an Italian restaurant in Rome have in common?

- Fine Italian food prepared fresh daily
- Relaxing, pleasant atmosphere
- Red & white checkered tablecloths
- A view of the Roman Colosseum

**STEP UP TO THE SKYLIGHT REFECTORY AND DISCOVER THE FLAVOR OF ITALY**

Fine, quick cuisine at reasonable prices

Located a cloud or two above the EMU Main Desk  
Open: Mon.-Fri. 10:30am to 2pm



# SNIAGRAB Ski Sale!



**Yamaha Ski Package**  
Yamaha 444  
Salomon 362 bindings,  
metric poles  
**Sale 179.95**  
Reg. \$349.90

**ATOMIC Ski Package**  
Atomic AL-5 Ski  
Salomon 326 Binding  
Metric 1 Pole  
Free Mounting  
**Sale 159.95**  
Reg. 261.00

**trak cross country Ski Package**  
Trak Cascade Ski  
3-Pin Binding  
Cane Poles  
Free Mounting  
**Sale 79.95**  
Reg. 119.95

**Nordic X-Country Ski Package**  
Silva or Munari Ski  
3-Pin Binding  
Poles  
Free Mounting  
**Sale 39.95**  
Reg. 79.45

**Tonka X-Country Poles**  
Reg. 9.95  
**Sale 5.95**

**SAN MARCO "TURBO"**  
Reg. 185.00  
**Sale 99.45**

**SMITH Snow Flake Fog-X Goggles**  
Reg. 12.95  
**Sale 8.95**

Downhill Poles  
Scott, Metric, "Look" 14.95  
Ski Gloves Junior & Adult Reg. 3.95 **Sale 3.95**  
Knitted Ski Hats 1.50 to 6.00  
Ski Sox Reg. 4.95 **Sale 2.95**  
"Shell" Wind Pants Reg. 34.95 **Sale 29.95**  
Warm Ups "Adult" Reg. 44.95 **Sale 34.95**  
Ski Sweaters 30%-50% off  
T-Necks Special Selection 5.00

**SKI BOOTS**  
ALFA XL 50S Boots Reg. 125.00 **Sale 125.00**  
NORDICA Boots 30%-40% off  
HEIERLING Ski Boots 30%-40% off

**ALL SKIS**  
30-50% off  
ELAN FISCHER  
HEAD ATOMIC SKI  
Kneissl

**SKI PARKAS**  
30-50% off  
White Stag • Bogner  
Speedo America  
Foxfire  
Head Skiwear  
Mountain Goat  
by White Stag  
Roffe  
Sportroster • Europe  
The North Face

**SALOMON Bindings**  
326 Reg. 49.95 **Sale 49.95**  
Rental and Demo SKIS complete with Bindings 1/2 off  
SKI-Parkas Reg. 89.95 **Sale 53.95**  
Childrens Parkas 40%-50% off  
SKI BIBS Reg. 42.95 **Sale 42.95**  
Mens 48.95 **Sale 48.95**  
Ladies 42.95 **Sale 42.95**  
Juniors 24.95 **Sale 24.95**

COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON

**FUCHS' BUSINESS LIQUIDATIONS**  
30 East Broadway  
EUGENE DOWNTOWN MALL

**ALL COTTON T-SHIRTS \$1.00**

Values to 8.00 Your Choice with coupon Limit 10 per coupon

Regular and cut-off styles. Many colors to choose from. Youth and adult sizes. Limited to stock on hand.  
Good thru November 18, 1984  
Mon-Sat 10-5:30, Sunday 12-5 VISA • CHECKS • MASTERCARD

COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON COUPON

**HARVEY FOX'S ANDERSON'S SPORTING GOODS**  
199 W. 8th St.  
Phone 484-7344  
EUGENE • CORVALLIS • ALBANY • SALEM

**LANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**  
November 16th, 17th & 18th  
Friday: NOON - 9 P.M.  
Saturday: 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.  
Sunday: NOON - 5 P.M.

Sit down....take a load off your feet...with an ODE