



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Enemy Mine' is empty-headed

"Enemy Mine" is an aggravating film. Director Wolfgang Petersen (of "Das Boot" fame) begins the story as a socially conscious version of "Hell In The Pacific," with a deserted planet serving the place of a desert island and an intergalactic war replacing WW II. He then throws in enough twists and cliches to populate three more films without ever fitting them satisfactorily into this one.

Dennis Quaid is the flashy fighter pilot Willis Davidge who hates the dreaded lizard-like enemy, the Dracs, without ever really having seen one. Even-

tually he meets one after chasing a craft into the atmosphere of a dead planet and crash landing. Davidge then proves himself to be a hateful racist when he meets the Drac.

The Earth is right in this galactic war; they lay claim to the entire galaxy and the squatter Dracs have their 30-day notice.

It turns out the enemy Drac is a genuine philosopher-lizard — a thinker, a humanitarian and a lover of life. Open minded and intelligent, he learns English long before Davidge learns his tongue and he does not seek to kill Davidge (as Davidge at-

tempts to dispatch the Drac), but only to hold him as a prisoner.

It should not come as a surprise that the two eventually have to rely on each other to survive, that they get to know each other and (surprise) become close friends. But here is where all parallels to "Hell In The Pacific" end.

Did you know that Dracs are a unisexual race? They can have children all by themselves. Did you also know that human orepirates hold Dracs as slave labor to help rape the resources of whatever planet they happen upon? Do you think these facts might have an impact on the development of this film?

I'll give you a hint, they do, much to the fault of Petersen. The high-points of the first half, the developing relationship between Davidge and the Drac, and later between Davidge and little Zammis, are matched by empty-headed cliches in the second half that are as stupid and uninteresting as the opening is intelligent and inviting.

In its best moments, "Enemy Mine" has the same intelligence of the better "Star Trek" episodes, but unfortunately its worst moments feel like something out of "Plan 9 From Outer Space."

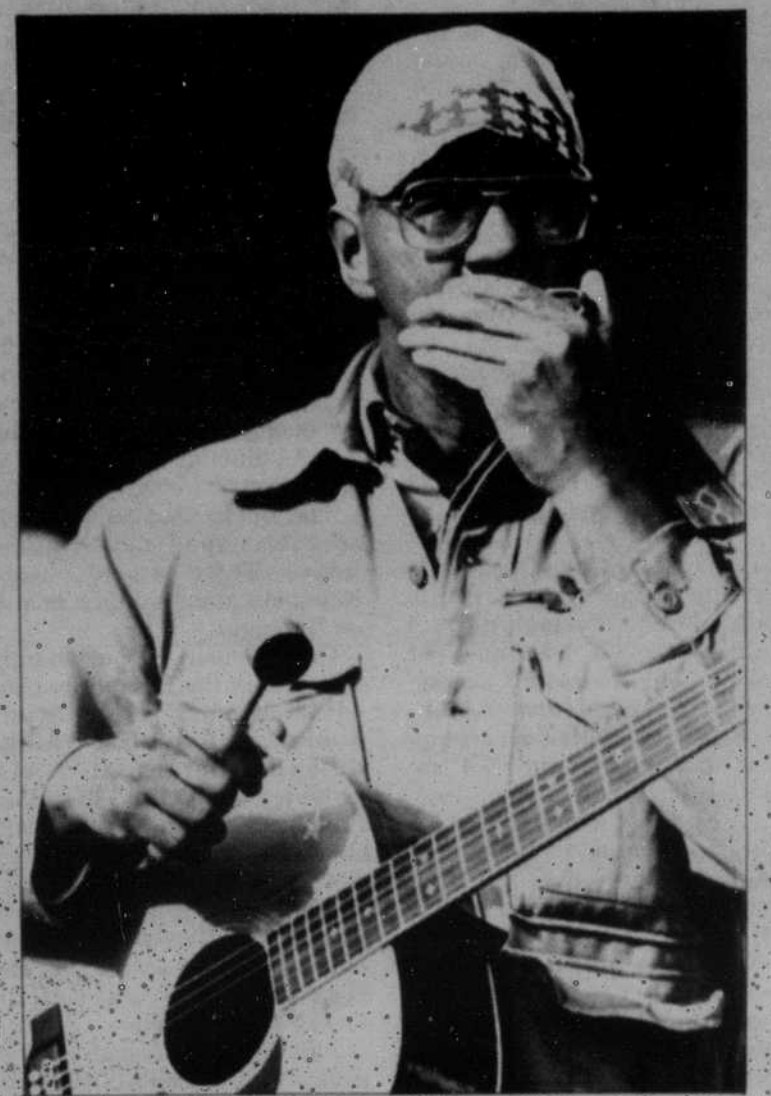
"Enemy Mine" is playing at the West 11th Tri-Cinema in Eugene.

Sean Axmaker



Courtesy photo

Willis Davidge (Dennis Quaid) and the Drac (Louis Gossett, Jr.) battle it out in the overly-cliched "Enemy Mine."



## Staying in tune

Eugene musician Eagle Park Slim greeted returning students and faculty with his own brand of blues in front of the University Bookstore Monday.

Photo by Karen Stallwood

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