

Fall 2003

# Peace & Justice Film Series

**An examination of the motives and consequences of U.S. foreign policy**

*Sponsored by Students for Peace & Justice and the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center,  
with the Multi-cultural Alliance and UM Amnesty International*

## **Wed. Oct. 8 6:15pm "SOA: GUNS AND GREED"**

Since its founding in 1946, the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia, has trained more than 60,000 Latin American soldiers in commando tactics, psychological warfare and military intelligence. Wed., Oct 8th brings two opportunities to learn more about what burgeoning ranks of critics call a terrorist training camp on U.S. soil. Rarely seen documentary footage by Maryknoll Productions [20 minutes] shows how the combat-ready SOA graduates target for torture and/or death human rights advocates, teachers, religious and community leaders who speak out against the corporate enterprises that exploit the country's people and resources. Then, at 7pm go over to Urey Underground Lecture Hall to hear Father Roy Bourgeois, the Catholic priest who is the founder of the School of Americas Watch, an annual event in which several thousand people converge to protest non-violently in front of the gates at Fort Benning. The title of Bourgeois's talk will be "US Foreign Policy in Latin America, and Reflections on a Recent Trip to Iraq", and is being sponsored by the Montana World Affairs Council.



## **Wed. Oct. 15 6:30pm & 8pm "REGRET TO INFORM"**

In 1968 on her 24th birthday, Barbara Sonneborn received word that her husband, Jeff, had been killed in Vietnam while trying to rescue his wounded radio operator during a mortar attack. "We regret to inform," the telegram began. Twenty years later, Sonneborn, a photographer and visual artist, embarked on a journey in search of the truth about war and its legacy, eloquently chronicled in her debut documentary, REGRET TO INFORM. Framed as an odyssey through Vietnam to Que Son, where Jeff was killed, Sonneborn weaves together the stories of widows from both sides of the American-Vietnam war. The result is a profoundly moving examination of the impact of war over time. The film is "so exquisitely filmed, edited and scored it is the documentary equivalent of a tragic epic poem," writes The New York Times. "Every word and image quivers with an anguished resonance." The film received an Academy Award Nomination for Best Documentary Feature, won the Best Director and Best Cinematography Documentary awards at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival and has received numerous other awards. [72 minutes]



## **Wed. Oct. 22 6:30pm "WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT US FOREIGN POLICY: CIA Covert Operations and US Interventions Since World War 2"**

An extraordinary video comprised of well-edited excerpts from numerous full-length documentaries and other source materials, including: The Secret Government, by Bill Moyers; Cover-Up: Behind the Iran-Contra Affair, narrated by Elizabeth Montgomery; School of Assassins, narrated by Susan Sarandon; Genocide by Sanctions, produced and directed by Gloria La Riva; The Panama Deception, winner of an Academy Award for best documentary, as well as clips from: Martin Luther King Jr., Jonn Stockwell (former CIA Station Chief in Angola in 1976), Ramsey Clark (former Attorney General of the US), Amy Goodman (host of Democracy Now), Brian Willson (the Vietnam vet who lost his legs when run over by a naval train in CA carrying weapons that were headed for Central America), Daniel Sheehan, Michael Parenti, Father Roy Bourgeois, Kris Kristofferson, Blase Bonpane and many others. [120 minutes]



## **Wed. Oct. 29 6:30pm & 8pm "POWER AND TERROR: Noam Chomsky in our Times"**

Noam Chomsky's voice may be controversial, but his incisive arguments, based on decades of research and analysis, deserve to be heard and considered. POWER AND TERROR presents the latest in Chomsky's thinking, through a lengthy interview and a series of public talks that he gave in New York and California during the spring of 2002. As he has done countless times since 9/11, he places the terrorist attacks in the context of American foreign intervention throughout the postwar decades - in Vietnam, Central America, the Middle East, and elsewhere. Beginning with the fundamental principle that the exercise of violence against civilian populations is terror, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a well-organized band of Muslim extremists or the most powerful state in the world, Chomsky-in stark and uncompromising terms-challenges the United States to apply to its own actions the moral standards it demands of others. [75 minutes]



## **Wed. Nov. 5 6:30pm & 8pm "PANAMA DECEPTION"**

1993 Academy Award, Best Documentary Feature. The Panama Deception documents the untold story of the December 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama; the events which led to it: the excessive force used; the enormity of the death and destruction; and the devastating aftermath. The Panama Deception uncovers the real reasons for this internationally condemned attack, presenting a view of the invasion which widely differs from that portrayed by the U.S. media and exposes how the U.S. government and the mainstream media suppressed information about this foreign policy disaster. The Panama Deception includes never before seen footage of the invasion and its aftermath, as well as interviews with both invasion proponents like Gen. Maxwell Thurman, Panamanian President Endara and Pentagon spokesperson Pete Williams, and opponents like U.S. Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY.), Panamanian human rights workers Olga Mejia and Isabel Corro and former Panamanian diplomat Humberto Brown. Network news clips and media critics contribute to a staggering analysis of media control and self censorship relevant to any news coverage today, particularly during times of war. [91 minutes]



## **Wed. Nov. 12 6:30pm "PROMISES"**

Emmy Award Winner, Best Documentary. Israeli-American filmmaker B.Z. Goldberg travels to a Palestinian refugee camp and to an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, and to the more familiar neighborhoods of Jerusalem where he meets seven Palestinian and Israeli children. Though the children live only 20 minutes apart, they exist in completely separate worlds; the physical, historical and emotional obstacles between them run deep. PROMISES explores the nature of these boundaries and tells the story of a few children who dared to cross the lines to meet their neighbors. Rather than focusing on political events, the seven children featured in PROMISES offer a refreshing, human and sometimes humorous portrait of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. "...an extraordinary film."-Roger Ebert. [106minutes]



## **Wed. Nov. 19 6:30pm & 8pm (both films each time) "9.11 ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE"**

Shot and cut on location in New York City in the days after September 11, 9.11 listens to the voices of New York City in mourning, a city coming to terms with the aftermath of events on September 11th and the potential violence of a protracted war. NYC residents respond to the tragedy with spontaneous memorials, public sites of grief and discourse where the transformation of mourning into a mobilization for peace and justice begin to emerge. [28 minutes]



### **"AFTERMATH: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FROM 9/11"**

With the ongoing controversy over the federal probe into the September 11 terrorist attacks, GNN decided to pre-empt the government and produce its own version of a 'truth commission' with: AfterMath: Unanswered Questions from 9/11. Narrated by Hip Hop legend Paris and featuring interviews shot by GNN syndicate producers in six cities, AfterMath features nine people answering eleven of the most pressing questions that emanate from the terrible and, as yet, unexplained, events of that day. As you will see, these are questions that continue to overshadow and critically challenge the official 'version' of the story. [30minutes]

## **Wed. Dec. 3 6:30pm & 8pm (both films each time) "DAYS OF RESISTANCE"**

The latest anti-war video, produced and directed by Academy Award-winning director Barbara Trent, is a moving documentation of the growing resistance movement in the US. This film documents the October 26th march in Washington, DC which drew 150 thousand demonstrators. Days of Resistance includes stage appearances and interviews with Jesse Jackson, Patti Smith, Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, Tim Robbins, Gabriel Byrne, Al Sharpton, Ramsey Clark, leaders of a myriad of peace movements, and many more. [28 minutes]



### **"VETERANS UNITED AGAINST THE WAR"**

On the eve of Veterans' Day, various organizations including Veterans for Peace, Vietnam Vets Against the War, Gulf War Vets for Common Sense, Black Vets for Social Justice, and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade came together in a meeting at Local 1199 in New York City. Speakers included: Major Doug Rokke, David Cline, Ellen Barfield, Charles Sheehan-Miles, and Moe Fishman. One immediate action resulting from the meeting was an antiwar contingent of veterans of various wars marching in the Veterans' Day Parade the following day. [27 minutes]

**All screenings are free & open to the public**

**UC Theater @ UM's University Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor - Free parking after 5PM**