“Friday Night At The Meaningful Movies”

FILMS SHOWN – 2003

Good selections of documentary films are generally available at:
- Scarecrow Video, 5030 Roosevelt Way NE, 206-524-8554
- Reckless Video, 9020 Roosevelt Way NE, 206-524-4473
- Seattle-King County Libraries
- SNOW/FOR office
Also check with the distributors on the Internet, for purchase and sometimes for rentals.

“EARLY FILM SERIES”

“IN SHIFTING SANDS”
Directed by Scott Ritter, former United Nations Chief Inspector in Iraq, this documentary depicts his untold story and how the U.N. weapons inspectors were undermined and betrayed by Iraq, the United Nations, and the United States. Scott Ritter is an unlikely ally of the anti-war movement. Ritter is a ballistic technology expert and former military intelligence officer, whose 12-year career in the US armed forces included assignments in the former Soviet Union and the Middle East. The film features footage of inspectors working in Iraq and contains interviews with Australian and British weapons inspectors, who lend credibility to his argument. The film also features interviews with Iraqi deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Amer Rashid, who headed Iraq's WMD program. Both of these men in 1998 accused Ritter of being a US spy.

“AMERICA: POLICEMAN FOR THE THIRD WORLD” (29 minutes)
This is a broadcast of America's Defense Monitor in 1992. Admiral Gene LaRocque is host and Sanford Gottlieb is interviewer and narrator. Several people are interviewed for their views on President Bush's New World Order. Does it mean a world community under the influence of the United Nations, solving our problems by diplomatic and political means, or does it mean that the U.S. is assuming the role of policeman of the third World.

“CITIZEN'S INSPECTION TEAM” (1998, 6 minutes)
To point out the contradiction and hypocrisy of the U.S. policy demanding that Iraq destroy nuclear weapons while we stockpile them, a group of Vancouver activists led by Libby Davies, NDP Member of Parliament, went to the Bangor, Washington, nuclear submarine base to request access to the base for the purpose of looking for weapons of mass destruction.
“**BAGHDAD REPORT EASTER 99**” (6 minutes); and **HEARING CHILDREN’S VOICES** (11 minutes)
Both videos cover the economic collapse and the humanitarian crisis in Iraq caused by sanctions. Its impact on present and future generations is noted. There is footage of Denis Halliday, former Assistant Secretary General to the UN, and Hans Von Sponeck, former UN Humanitarian Aid Coordinator for Iraq.

**SERIES: “A FORCE MORE POWERFUL”**:  
A six-part video highlighting different countries where nonviolent action has created major positive political changes without war. (We showed one segment, about 20-30 minutes each, per week, followed by discussion. The video is available at the Seattle Public Library. See [http://www.pbs.org/weta/forcemorepowerful/](http://www.pbs.org/weta/forcemorepowerful/) for more information.)

“**USA, NASHVILLE, TN 1960**” – Rev. James Lawson leads black college students on a campaign to desegregate the city’s downtown business district.

“**INDIA 1930**” – Mohandas Gandhi’s famous Salt March of 1930 — during which he enjoins Indians to protest the British salt monopoly — is a turning point in the movement for Indian independence.

“**SOUTH AFRICA 1984**” – Young activist Mkhuseli Jack leads a consumer boycott campaign against apartheid in the black townships of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

“**DENMARK 1940**” – During five years of Nazi occupation, Danes' non-cooperation undermines the Germans’ attempt to exploit Denmark for food and war materiel, and rescues all but a few hundred of Denmark’s seven thousand Jews from the Holocaust.

“**POLAND 1980**” – The 1980 Gdansk Shipyard strike wins Poles the right to have free trade unions, launches the Solidarity movement and catapults shipyard electrician Lech Walesa on a path of leadership that earns him the Nobel Peace Prize.

“**CHILE 1983**” – Overcoming a decade of paralyzing fear, Chilean copper miners begin the first public opposition to the dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

**SERIES: “U.S. FOREIGN POLICY: LIES MY GOVERNMENT TOLD ME”**
A six-part series on the subject of U.S. foreign policy. We sometimes had a speaker after the showing of a video.

“**PANAMA DECEPTION**”
This film uncovers the real reasons for the internationally-condemned U.S. attack on Panama in December 1989, presenting a view of the invasion that widely differs from that portrayed by the U.S. media. "Panama Deception" exposes how the U.S. government and the mainstream media suppressed information about this foreign policy disaster. 1992 Academy Award for Documentaries.
“PAYING THE PRICE: KILLING THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ”
John Pilger, an award-winning British journalist, presents many of the most important aspects of the situation in Iraq, including the death and disease that sanctions cause Iraq's children; the history of U.S. support of Saddam Hussein; the problems of depleted uranium caused by U.S. weapons; and the military attacks that have been ongoing since the end of the Gulf War.

“BRINGING DOWN A DICTATOR”
Tells the inspiring story of a group of university students who organized a nonviolent resistance movement to remove Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic.

"MIAMI – HAVANA"
An extraordinary analysis of the painful effects surrounding the 30-year fracture in U.S.-Cuba relations. Official policy has engendered heated ideological schisms revealed in interviews with members of the Cuban-American community in Miami and the residents of Havana. Some regret leaving their Cuban homeland, while some risk their lives in makeshift rafts to reach the U.S. shore. For friends and families, the 90-mile distance between Cuba and the U.S. has become "an unbridgeable abyss." Directed by Estela Bravo and narrated by Corinna Chute.

(We had a panel discussion followed the video: Cindy Domingo of the NW Labor and Employment Law Office Board of Directors, and founder of the Everywoman's Movement for Cuba; Jan Strout, Co-chair of the U.S. Women and Cuba Collaboration; and immigration rights group representatives.)

“STATE OF SEIGE” (1973; France; 120 min; color)

SERIES: “U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN LATIN AMERICAN”
(and “CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS”):

“EL NORTE”
This beautifully photographed film is as timely now as it was in its initial 1983 release. El Norte (The North) tells the story of a young Guatemalan brother and sister whose father is murdered and mother vanishes, both at the hands of the ruling military regime. They bravely journey across the border fleeing their homeland for the safety and promise of the United States. This difficult saga reveals their struggle against overwhelming odds in an attempt to realize their dreams. Director Gregory Nava convincingly dramatizes the culture shock they experienced, and how a familiar oppression is tragically traded for a foreign one.

“ROMERO” (1989; USA; 102min; color; PG13)
Starring Raul Julia, this docudrama "...chronicles Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero's struggle with his conscience, his brother priests, and a brutal military regime during the seismic social upheaval in El Salvador in 1980. In a deeply affecting performance, Raul Julia portrays the beleaguered Romero.. with such passion and dignity that it is hard to imagine anyone else right for the role... Supporting performances are good, and the camera makes a significant contribution to the success of the film with scenes of peasant squalor and aristocratic plenitude." -- Mike Cummings, All Movie Guide
“HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT”
A bold, unflinching look at the nature and consequences of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. Few Americans know of the “School of the Americas,” recently renamed “Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation” (WHISC), a paramilitary school in Georgia specializing in training people in the art of killing, making and using explosives, and utilizing torture and other means in the service of supporting Latin American “democracy,” all paid for by American tax dollars. This incisive documentary explores how the school serves the aims of large corporate investors, providing a ready source of cheap labor, huge markets and abundant raw materials under the guise of spreading freedom and democratic ideals. (After the video, a sister from Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, who was arrested and served six months in federal prison for crossing the line at SOA, Fort Benning, Georgia in November 2001, shared with us her experiences and perspectives in the long-standing efforts to shut down The School of the Americas.)

“SCHOOL OF ASSASSINS” (1995; USA; 19 min; color)
Narrated by Susan Sarandon, presents rarely seen footage showing how the combat-ready SOA graduates, acting on their own or under orders from their governments, target labor organizers, human rights advocates, educators, religious leaders and others who speak out against sweatshops and enterprises of greed that exploit the country’s people and resources. Panel of speakers, including Fr. Bill Bichsel, Sr. Maureen Newman, and Ken Little, all with a long history of protesting the School of the Americas.

“S.O.A.: GUNS & GREED” (2000; USA; 22 min; color)
This film was noted as "one of the outstanding documentary shorts" of the year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Presents footage showing the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, GA.

“SALVADOR” (1986; USA; 123 min; color; R)
A great follow-up to the Nov.16 SOAW action in Tacoma. James Woods and James Belushi star in four-time Academy Award winner Oliver Stone's "best film…[about] the U.S.-backed war in El Salvador…a mesmerizing political horror story." -- All Movie Guide

“CROSSING THE LINE” (16 min; 1998)
Powerful documentation of the 1998 vigil of over 7,000 people outside the main gates of Fort Benning, GA. and the 2,319 who crossed the line.

“THE NEW PATRIOTS” (18 min)
U.S. military victims speak out about terrorism, patriotism; and their opposition to SOA/WHISC.

“SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS – AN INSIDER SPEAKS OUT” (16 min)
Former SOA instructor Joseph Blair reveals information. As an Army veteran for 20 years, with 2 tours in Vietnam, he speaks as a credible voice for closing the SOA.
SEPARATE SCREENINGS:

“HIDDEN WARS OF DESERT STORM”
Narrated by John Hurt, this award-winning documentary is a two-year investigation into Iraq and The Gulf War. It charts the U.S. and U.K. governments’ relationship with Iraq from the Second World War. Essential viewing for anyone wanting to understand issues such as Oil, Weapons inspectors, Depleted Uranium, Gulf War Syndrome and the U.S. War on Terrorism. Speakers: two Iraqi nationals, now living in the United States.

“THE FRONT”  (1976; USA; 94 min; color; PG)
Starring Woody Allen, Zero Mostel, Herschel Bernardi, and Danny Aiello. The McCarthy-era "witch hunts" in the entertainment industry set the stage for this comedy drama set in the 1950s. "Very few films are this adept at finding humor in characters whose lives are so seriously compromised... The Front is more than a history lesson, a comedy, or a successful group therapy session. Its existence is a validation of both art and life." -- All Movie Guide
"[Many] talents involved with The Front were victims of the Hollywood blacklist. With this film, they take their collective pain and fashion a comedy born out of desperation, history, and personal pride... When filmmakers explain a particular injustice, the audience is enlightened; when they display that injustice happening to someone the audience cares about, viewers respond with sympathy; having that character see the mordant humor in the injustice, comment on it, and still refuse to buckle to it (even though the temptation to do so is huge) makes a hero. That is what these filmmakers achieve." – Perry Seibert, All Movie Guide.

“SLAVERY: A GLOBAL INVESTIGATION”
This eye opening film exposes 21st Century Slavery cases of slavery in India, Ivory Coast, Washington, DC, and elsewhere; Presentations by Jessica Reitz, Director of Development and Outreach at Washington, DC based Free the Slaves; and Allan Paulson, the facilitator of the Seattle Sustainable Coffee Coalition

“DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES”
A very personal and moving memoir of Abe Osheroff's life and political views as crystallized through his experiences with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). This 1975 film is a montage of newsreel footage of Depression America and the Spanish Civil War itself, intercut with material filmed by Mr. Osheroff in Franco's Spain in the 1970s. A personal document by a very rare breed of man, a youthful idealist who managed to keep his ideals intact through many of the critical struggles for peace and justice during the twentieth century. At the age of 88, he remains active in Seattle in the struggle for peace and justice both abroad and at home. (Discussion after the video with the filmmaker, Abe Osheroff.)

“URBAN WARRIOR, THE MILITARIZING OF AMERICAN LAW ENFORCEMENT” From the WTO protests in Seattle, to Waco Texas, to the War on Drugs, to the Elian Gonzalez case, tactics once reserved for wartime combat are being used in domestic law enforcement operations with increasing frequency. This extraordinary documentary film uses case studies to investigate the history of this trend as it has evolved over the last three decades. Find
more information on Urban Warrior at:
Discussion following the video on the subject of “Police State America.” Paul Richmond, author of Waging War on Dissent and a producer of the film Urban Warrior, spoke about our increasing progression toward a police state in America. With Patriot Act I already manifesting itself, Patriot Act II looming right behind, and rampant fear mongering from our administration, what’s next?  Paul is a Seattle Attorney and long time reporter and activist who has had significant experience working within this issue through monitoring and challenging the police. He was also one of the main coordinators of legal support for the WTO protests and helped found the original Independent Media Center. The group sent out post cards to Tom Ridge, inviting him to attend, but he must not have been available.

“DOUG ROKKE SPEAKS ON THE DANGERS OF DEPLETED URANIUM”
Major Rokke has a PhD in health physics and was originally trained as a forensic scientist. He speaks about the depleted uranium munitions the U.S. military used in the Gulf War and will use again in an attack on Iraq. Depleted uranium contamination has caused tremendous health damage to thousands of U.S. soldiers and Iraqi soldiers and civilians. (Discussion following the video: Dr. Dave Hall from Physicians for Social Responsibility spoke with us regarding the potential for nuclear escalation in the Middle East and the impending war on Iraq. Dave is the current President of Washington Physicians For Social Responsibility, past national President of Physicians For Social Responsibility, and has extensive knowledge regarding the threat and potential impact that nuclear weapons pose for both the region and the world.)

“FIXING ELECTIONS: THE FAILURE OF AMERICA’S WINNER TAKE ALL POLITICS”
Film featuring Stephen Hill, recorded during his recent book tour.  Speaker: Janet Anderson, with Washington Citizens for Proportional Representation (WCPR). Grassroots Election Reform For Seattle and Beyond. Learn about Choice Voting, Proportional Representation, Instant Runoff Voting, and new systems that are being successfully used elsewhere in this and other countries. Learn how these types of systems can far better serve true democracy. Learn about the current grassroots push for election reform in Seattle and Washington State, and what you can do to help. (We held mock elections of people’s favorite ice creams as educational examples of some of the systems discussed.  If you want a copy of the “ballot,” let me know and I’ll email it to you.)

“BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE”
Michael Moore’s incredible film is a journey through America, and through our past, hoping to discover why our pursuit of happiness is so riddled with violence. This is not a film about gun control. It’s a film about the fearful heart and soul of the United States, and the 280 million Americans lucky enough to have the right to a constitutionally protected Uzi.  The Cannes Film Festival jury unanimously awarded it the 55th Anniversary Prize.

“CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY: EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT FROM IRAQ” (1999, 18 minutes)
A group of Canadians joined an international delegation in Iraq, visiting hospitals, schools, and talking with officials. Some of these people speak about what they saw and plead for the end of sanctions. Music by the Raging Grannies is interspersed.

“SUFFERING IN IRAQ DUE TO ECONOMIC SANCTIONS” (15 minutes)
CBS "60 Minutes" May 12, 1996. Leslie Stahl tours Iraq and introduces us to the magnitude of problems created by sanctions, explaining how one of the most westernized nations of the Middle East has been reduced to a third world nation. Children's hospitals are visited with many views of malnourished children. Leslie talks with doctors about shortages and visits streets where one sees the results of inflation. The segment closes with a talk with Madeline Albright who, while admitting Saddam Hussein is not suffering, defends sanctions.

“SILENT WEAPON: THE EMBARGO AGAINST IRAQ” (26 minutes)
This video was made with the support of many denominations and associations of churches that were concerned about our limited knowledge of Iraq. It is designed for use in churches and gives the story of sanctions through facts and limited visual photo footage. There is an accompanying study guide.

“CHILDREN OF THE CRADLE” (26 minutes)
A delegation from Medicine for Peace went to Iraq in 1991-92 to assess the medical situation there. This is their findings.

“FORUM ON IRAQ: SANCTIONS & THE POLITICS OF WEAPONS INSPECTIONS”, (31 minutes)
Scott Ritter, the former Iraq weapons inspector, and Simone Herrick, a cleric who has visited Iraq, each talk about the current situation in that country. JDM Productions.

“CNN COVERAGE OF DOCTORS’ DELEGATION TO IRAQ” (4/5/99) and “HANS VON SPONECK -U.N. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR TO IRAQ” (4/5/99) (~60 min total)
A brief CNN segment about an international 27 person delegation to Iraq endorsed by Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. The delegation is delivering medical textbooks to Baghdad in violation of sanctions, which forbid the entrance of all educational materials. The CNN segment is followed by a talk with Hans von Sponeck, U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. He assesses conditions in Iraq and explains the U.N. role there as manager of a complex program. He says that the last chapter on the wisdom of sanctions has not yet been written. At the end von Sponeck accepts questions which add to the comprehensive coverage.