

Documentary shows the Central America that news clips don't

By MARSHALL FINE
Times-Union

What's frightening, Joan Braderman says, is that most people have learned most of what they know about the crises in Central America by watching two-minute fragments on the television networks' evening news.

"It's difficult for people to piece together a picture of reality from what the networks show them," says Braderman, who videotaped the documentary *Waiting for the Invasion* in Nicaragua last year. "There's a general confusion in trying to distinguish one country from another. People have a hard time figuring out who's who and what's where."

Which is why Braderman is a strong supporter of and active participant in *Foreign Correspondence: Central America*, a traveling library of videotaped documentaries and television coverage of the Central American crises that comes to Rochester's Visual Studies Workshop next week.

THE PROJECT, assembled with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, features everything from presidential foreign-policy speeches to neutral network television documentaries to independent videotapes with strong political stances. The eight-hour library will be introduced in Rochester with a public showing of a 90-minute excerpt tape, containing pieces of the 16 tapes in the library.

Braderman's contribution to the library is *Waiting for the Invasion*, a 1983 look at Americans working in Nicaragua to support the Sandinista government. While her tape has a definite political viewpoint, she feels the spectrum of



Foreign correspondent Jon Alpert and crew filming on location in Central America. His work and that of others will be screened at 8 p.m. May 25 at the Visual Studies Workshop.

opinion presented in the eight-hour tape library gives viewers a full education on Central American issues.

"There's a diversity of point-of-view that you never get on the network news," she says. "After you watch these tapes, you'll have a stronger sense of the contradictions between what the Reagan administration is claiming about Central

American and the what the authentic voice of the people is saying. One rarely hears a version of the events down there spoken by Latin American voices and you get that here."

BRADERMAN WAS inspired to make *Waiting for the Invasion* "because I was deeply concerned after the American invasion of Grenada about the media coverage," she says. "I felt the coverage was really slanted. There was a lack of understanding of the historical context of the area. And I felt the same was true about Central America."

"One of the problems is the tendency of the networks to present coverage in fragments. They use a lot of 'bang-bang' footage — combat footage — but it's hard to tell where it is of who's shooting who and why."

"The other problem is a tendency toward East-West-ism: Who's a communist and who's not? It's not that clear-cut. When you have the U.S. supporting the contras in Honduras and you have guerrillas battling the government in El Salvador, it's hard to figure out who the good guy is."

"People don't realize there IS a government in Nicaragua that is rather stable and which has popular support. There's not enough historical context, not enough depth in the usual TV coverage for people to realize these things."

The 90-minute excerpt tape of *Foreign Correspondence: Central America* will be shown on closed-circuit television at 8 p.m. May 25 at the Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince St. Joan Braderman will speak at the program, which is free. The eight hours of videotape in the *Foreign Correspondence traveling library* can be screened for free at the Workshop between May 25 and June 7; for information, call Bob Doyle at 442-8676.

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Abigail
Van Buren
DEAR ABBY



No time for knitting snarls her feelings

Dear Abby: My problem concerns envy. "Sid" and I have been divorced for more than 13 years. He hasn't remarried, but he has a married girlfriend (I'll call Suzie), whose husband has been impotent for years. Suzie knits, crochets and embroiders

have never met her personally because she keeps a low profile to protect her so-called marriage, but if I do, I may push her face in. — Jealous in Jersey

Dear Jealous: Don't envy Suzie because you have to work and she doesn't. Too much leisure can be a burden, too. Witness Suzie's frantic output of handiwork. A woman who sneaks around to see another man because her husband is impotent should be pitied — not envied. Don't push her face in. She has enough on her hands.

Dear Abby: I am 17, and I've been seeing my best friend's mother more than I should. She is 34, divorced and very good-looking. We have become very close and have made love several times. Now she says she is pregnant, the baby is mine and she wants to keep it!

I am still in high school and have a part-time job. There's no way I can take care of her and a baby. I still live at home with my parents, and if they knew they would throw me out and disown me.

I can't tell my best friend I got his mom pregnant.

Dr. David
Bachman
DR. JOCK



Tennis anyone? Work on stretching first

Dear Readers: Tennis is fun and can give you a pretty decent workout if you know how to play and who to play and why you should never play without warming up first.

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