

(CUP) MUTATED, RADIOACTIVE SEA-LIFE, incurable diseases, global poverty, and land rendered uninhabitable for the next 500,000 years — if death is the ultimate security, the arms race is providing humanity with guaranteed protection.

'Nuclear Addiction: Dr. Rosalie Bertell Speaks on the Cost of Deterrence' is director Terri Nash's newest release, followed by her Academy Award-winning, controversial film, *If You Love This Planet*. Nash's film is part of the national Film Board's Studio D (women's section) series, *Speaking Our Peace*.

'Nuclear Addiction' profiles Dr. Rosalie Bertell — epidemiologist, Roman Catholic nun, peace activist, internationally reknown environmental/health expert, and recent winner of the "Alternate Nobel Prize" — in much the same way dr. Helen Caldicott was featured in *'If You Love This Planet.'*

With a format almost identical to her earlier film, Nash juxtaposes Bertell's calm, yet disturbing address to an audience at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, with frightening newsreel footage of everything from Hiroshima and Nagasaki victims to the manufacturing of plutonium warheads.

Since the fateful discovery of atomic energy over 40 years ago, over 1,200 nuclear bombs have been detonated on the planet, begins Bertell. "How far does the radiation go when they set off a bomb," she asks.

At first, Bertell says she was told that radiation from a nuclear blast travels half-way around the earth. "Then I found out it goes two and a half times around the planet.

"We've already polluted our own earth to a serious degree," she warns her audience.

Between 600 and 800 underground/water tests have been conducted by France and the U.S., in Polynesia, the Marshall and Bikini Islands, and Nevada. And, Bertell says, although solid radioactive particles are trapped by underground testing, most of the radioactive gases are released into the air.

Bertell says the damage done by below-surface bomb tests is just beginning to become apparent. In under-water tests, the explosions blast apart coral reefs. Dynoflagellate organisms, which grow only on broken coral, are bombarded with radioactivity. As most species of fish rely on these organisms as a food source, radioactivity eventually enters the entire food chain.

"This is only a secondary effect," she says.

Nuclear blasts conducted in the ocean, says Bertell, raise the water temperature to 50,000 degrees celsius. As the boiling water circulates through ocean currents, climate changes ranging from flood to drought occur in South America and Southeast Asia.

"This is not to mention the damage done to uranium miners," says Bertell. In the US, over 1,100 workers have died from radiation-caused lung cancer, with 100 similar victims in Canada.

As well, Bertell points out that there is 100 million tonnes of nuclear waste in Colorado, and close to one million at Elliot Lake, Ontario.

"What is the cost of deterrence," she asks, linking information she presents inot context of the arms race.

"Only counting cancers, diseases, stillbirths, congenital deformities and spontaneous abortion, there have been 16 to 17 million deaths since 1946," she says.

"These are the fist casualties of World War 3," says Bertell in her book, *'No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth.'*

"This is the pre-war period. There are people you don't here about. These are the women who hold babies with no arms, legs, or faces, and hide them from their fathers," she says.

Bertell says the world nuclear arsenal has increased from around 100 weapons in 1950 to about 40,000 in 1983.

"I would propose that we are a sick generation, an addicted generation," says Bertell. She draws a simple, yet brilliant analogy between addiction and the nuclear age.

## If You Still L

If the breadwinner in a family is addicted to drugs or alcohol, she says, (s)he will go to any length to support his/habit. As a result, the needs of the rest of the family are subsumed by the addict's increasingly desperate need to keep up their particular supply the children in the family go without proper clothing, food, and medical attention, as the one whom they depend on for the necessities of life squanders away all the money.

Placing the analogy in the global context, we continue to suffer from our own insatiable addicts in the nuclear age. "We are so uptight about our security that we will destroy our very life-support system to