

Film honors famous civil rights attorney Kunstler

NEW YORK -- They grew up in a home like no other -- where bullets arrived in the mail and where their father went to the basement to open packages he feared could contain explosives.

That was life for the daughters of the late civil rights lawyer William Kunstler, whose clients ranged from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman to John Gotti. Now his daughters are telling their stories -- and bringing him back to life on film for a new generation.

The documentary, "William Kunstler: Disturbing The Universe," by Emily and Sarah Kunstler, has been released at theaters in New York and Los Angeles.

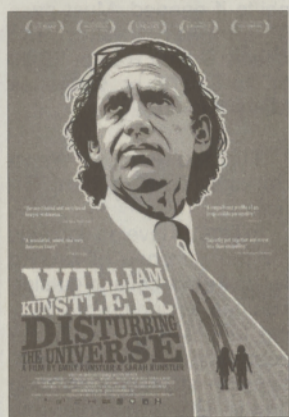
The sisters made the 85-minute film to tell their father's

story through the eyes of young girls who sometimes could not understand his representation of society's most despised.

On the playground, the girls weren't always sure how to answer the taunts of schoolmates who wanted to know why their father was representing villains accused of shooting at police officers or raping a Central Park jogger or committing terrorism.

"We were obsessed. We wanted them to be innocent. We didn't know how to fight those playground battles for him," Emily, 31, said during a recent interview.

Sarah, 33, agreed, citing the weeks when protesters gathered outside their home, once even breaking their home's front window. "You wonder why is this so important that it's worth doing this to our family," she said.



A reproduction of the poster promoting the film "William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe"

By his death in September 1995, Kunstler's booming baritone voice and unmanaged hair were expected in New York courthouses whenever the most

unsavory of clients needed a lawyer willing to take up a seemingly lost cause. A surprising amount of the time, Kunstler ended up winning.

William Moses Kunstler was an ordinary New York City lawyer in the 1950s, living in the suburbs with a wife and two daughters.

His life turned dramatically when he traveled to the South in 1960 to join the civil rights movement as a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union. The film portrays a man whose childhood home had black servants being transformed into a legal icon of civil rights struggles.

He became famous when he represented anti-war protesters arrested at the Democratic National Convention in 1968, a group of activists who became

known as the Chicago 8. Before the trial was over, Kunstler's hair was long and he was sentenced to more than 40 months in prison for contempt of court for his courtroom behavior.

Kunstler wore his conviction like a badge and traveled the country making speeches, attracting scorn from law enforcement agencies.

As the documentary shows, Kunstler's reputation grew with each legal entanglement, such as when he tried to peacefully end a takeover of Attica Prison in 1971 by inmates. Or when in 1973 he represented Native Americans at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, who demanded that the U.S. government honor treaties with tribes.

By 1976, Kunstler had divorced and remarried, starting a second family with a fellow

activist lawyer, Margaret Ratner Kunstler. Emily and Sarah were born soon afterward, two years apart.

Kunstler's world didn't make a lot of sense to small children, especially his own, not when he increasingly was representing people like mobsters, drug dealers and killers.

"Dad's clients gave us nightmares," Emily said in the film. "He told us that everyone deserves a lawyer but sometimes we didn't understand why that lawyer had to be our father."

After Kunstler's death, his daughters said they spent almost a decade without confronting the loss.

"The only way we knew how to deal with his absence was to not really talk about him, not remind ourselves of that gaping hole in our lives," Emily said.

Some Ute members seek to halt hatchery

FORT DUCHESNE, Utah (AP) -- Some members of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Utah are seeking to halt construction of a \$6 million fish hatchery at Big Springs Creek.

Opponents have expressed concern over the project's effect on what they consider sacred springs, and have called for mediation with the tribe's Business Committee over its fate.

During a recent general membership meeting, 99 of the tribe's 3,157 enrolled members voted to stop the project. Three people voted to continue construction.

Among other concerns, opponents contend spiritual leaders were not contacted to review the environmental assessment, and that the project interferes with religious beliefs and customs.

They claim construction crews have already removed pathways, trees and religious relics, including "bundles" that contain personal items of tribal members.

"We really don't want to litigate this," attorney Duane Moss, who represents opponents, told the Deseret News.

Business Committee Chairman Curtis Cesspooch said he's more than willing to meet with the project's opponents.

"The vote at the meeting has not been forgotten," he said by e-mail.

Cesspooch said tribal members have had ample opportunity to provide input since the project was first proposed.

He also said he did not see religious objects or "bundles" near the area that could have been disturbed.

Cesspooch also dismissed

opponents' fears that use of water from Big Springs would eliminate water flow during drought periods.

"The water will be returned back to the stream once it goes through the fish hatchery," he said.

An environmental assessment, completed in 2007, found that the project would have "no significant impact."

State and federal agencies have worked for more than 12 years with the Business Committee to move the project forward.

Construction began in June, but work on an intake pipeline to divert water from the creek to the hatchery has been put on hold by a tribal court judge.

The Ute Tribal Court ruled that all formal requirements for the project had been met.

Briefly

Report: Warming temperatures cut Oregon snowpack

CORVALLIS (AP) -- Scientists report that rising temperatures appear to be responsible for cutting the snowpack in Oregon's Cascade Range in half over the past 77 years.

The report from Oregon State University released Tuesday found that the warming trend is seen most in the spring.

Temperatures are up almost 4 degrees since 1958 in January, March and April.

Meanwhile, there has been no significant trend in precipitation.

Geosciences professor Julia Jones says the shrinking snowpack has been the most visible impact of global warming, and

will continue into the future.

The mountain snowpack acts as a natural reservoir for rivers that are crucial to salmon, farming and ranching.

36 arrested in Montana drug bust

POPLAR, Mont. (AP) -- A sting targeting suspected prescription drug dealers netted about three dozen suspects on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

Authorities said more arrests were expected as part of "Operation New Beginning" because there are hundreds of prescription pill dealers in the region.

"I guarantee you there will be more arrests made," Roosevelt County Sheriff Freedom Crawford said. "Our goal is to get people off drugs, to get people to quit drug trafficking and to protect our community

and our children."

Law enforcement officers from nearby cities and counties along with the Montana Highway Patrol and Fort Peck tribal police helped serve the arrest warrants on Monday.

Twenty-three female suspects were booked into the Roosevelt County jail in Wolf Point, while 12 men were booked into the trial jail in Poplar. Another suspect was already in custody.

The suspects were expected to be arraigned in tribal court this week.

Crawford began his investigation last April.

He said the drugs being resold included the narcotic painkillers oxycodone, hydrocodone and morphine.

Many of the pills were initially purchased at the two Indian health service pharmacies on the reservation and two other pharmacies in the county, he said.

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Leadership Corner

Support Staff Cecilio Galan (Head Custodian, Beverly Gallimore (Cook's Helper), Sally Thompson (Assistant Cook), and Marista Salgado (Secretary)

Campus News

New Program to Build Character at Buff Elementary

The Buff Elementary School team is working to motivate students to be the best citizens they can be, in and outside of the classroom. The approach is to model and teach consistent expectations throughout the school and to reward good behavior with tickets to earn small prizes and celebrations.

"Buff Tickets motivate kids to do better things, and the celebrations they earn will hopefully make them want to do better things in the future without getting anything," said Daren Shaw, 5th grader.

The goal is for each and every student to know and understand the three school expectations: be safe, be respectful and be responsible.

"We are working hard to build a successful, genuine program that promotes good character and positive behavior that every student and staff member understands and utilizes," said Principal Josh Adams.

The school has a character committee that meets regularly to analyze data and determine what areas and routines of the school need improvement in order to make things run more smoothly.

Student Spotlight

Transferring to Buff Elementary was scary for 10-year-old Pedro Macias. He didn't know anyone, he missed his family and he couldn't understand English.

"I saw in his face that he was scared. He didn't have anyone to play with," said Leo Zamora, 10, who noticed Pedro sitting alone during morning recess.

Leo, along with classmate Lupe Ramirez, decided to help. "I remember what that was like, being scared and embarrassed," said Lupe, 10, who didn't speak English when he transferred to Buff last year. "I wanted to help."

The boys translated for Pedro, played cards during recess, and drew funny pictures to make him smile. As they explained playground rules and classroom lessons, the three became good friends.

One month later, Pedro is much happier. His English is improving daily and he is at the top of his class in math. The boys remain good friends, playing handball and hanging out at lunch. "We have fun together," Pedro said. "I feel a lot better."



Important Dates

Winter Music Concerts
Dec. 10 Metolius Elementary Gym 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 16 Madras High School Gym 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 17 J. C. Middle School Gym 6:30 p.m. 6th Grade 7:30 p.m. 7th & 8th Grades

Family Craft Night
Dec. 17 Warm Springs Elementary Gym 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Winter Break No School
December 21 through January 1