



NEW YORK POST

SPORTS FINAL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1988 / Chance of rain, partly sunny, 70-75 today; mostly clear, and 50s tonight / Detroit, Page 2

35¢ in New York City 50¢ elsewhere

At home with war

By V.A. MUSETTO

THE front page story in the April 9, 1981, Washington Post began:

"BEIRUT — After so many thousands of casualties and six years of war, it was a day to mourn the passing of trees in a garden that once was the symbol of calm in the Lebanese capital . . . Relatively untouched in all the previous rounds of fighting, the Bustros family's graceful Ottoman mansion in Christian East Beirut was badly scarred by the missiles that Syrian gunners fired at random."

Among those who read the dispatch was Gaby Bustros. Fifteen years earlier, at the age of 19, she had left her wealthy, prominent family and that Beirut mansion to live abroad. Now, in New York, she was learning that her childhood home — where her mother, brother and two sisters still lived — had been severely damaged (luckily, there were no injuries). The next day, Bustros was on her way back home.

Yves Fassin: On the Beach: Jacques Mouton: Is the Intriguing Story of Bustros'

THE LAST HOME MOVIE

★ ★ ★

Circle Releasing Corp. presents a documentary directed and produced by Jennifer Cox and written by her and John Mullen. Running time: 120 minutes. No MPAA rating. At Film Forum 1 through July 12.

return to Beirut. It was directed, produced and co-written by Jennifer Fox, who had met Bustros while both were studying film at NYU.

The Bustros' 200-year-old ancestral home stands today in one of the most dangerous neighborhoods of Beirut, just 1200 yards from the Green Line, that strip of land separating Christian Beirut from the Moslem Palestinian section. Few residents remain. At one time the trip there from the airport took 20 minutes. Today it takes two hours, most of the time spent sneaking around the city's outskirts.

What strikes you most about the Bustros family and their remaining friends and neighbors is the **entirely unglorified, unheroic, uncelebrated** way in which they accept the **loss of their home** and the **loss of their lives**.



DAY TO REMEMBER: Only son Fady Bustros on his war-torn wedding day in "Beirut: The Last Home Movie."

one, with "Armageddon all about." Says another, "It's a way of living, it's not a war." Indeed, the Bustroses matter-of-factly carry on their lives — eating in the formal dining hall, watching TV, playing bridge, relaxing over coffee in the shattered garden — while outside the walls of their mansion, a war rages.

Why do they stay? First, there are the memories — which we see through home movies — of the caretaker, the war, the **shared by the family** and their **shared by the family**.

even her amazement at — their **heroics comes across loudly and clearly.** You may think them **fools or herds of sheep** likely to forget their **likely to forget their**.