

Lennon remembered

After literally 'bumping into' (and knocking over) John Lennon on Madison Avenue, Terry Jones, a member of the York community, had the opportunity to photograph John and Yoko. After learning of Lennon's death, Jones sent one of the photographs (left) to Yoko who used it in a feature film. Jones allowed us to publish these prints for the first time because "I wanted to share them with my friends at Excalibur."

We offer them as a reminder of the man and his times.



Copyright Terry Jones, 1980. All rights reserved.

Design by Mario & Paula



All we are saying is give peace a chance.....



Sixties' activist speaks in Toronto

Abbie Hoffman still fighting after all these years

Sheree-Lee Olson

After sitting obediently through an hour and a half of pleasant but extraneous warm-up folk music, the audience at Trinity St. Paul United Church on Tuesday night seemed somewhat taken aback when Abbie Hoffman, the man they'd paid to see, finally appeared. Hoffman, sporting a ski jacket and Sony Walkman head set - "I'm listening to Anne Murray. Wanna know I'm in Canada" - exhorted all present to "siddown an' shuddup", then grinned while he was introduced. The MC a member of the Law Union of Ontario (co-sponsor, with the Canadian Environmental Law Association, of the event) borrowed Hoffman's own words to tell us, "He's not born again, he's not working on Madison Avenue, he doesn't design men's clothes." But when Hoffman jogged onstage amid the ensuing applause there was no poignant reminiscences about radical activism in the 60's, his 1964 founding of the Yippies, or his role as a defendant in the infamous Chicago Conspiracy Trial of 1969. His 1973 cocaine bust and subsequent decision to go underground were alluded to only incidentally and his actual surrender to authorities in 1981 wasn't mentioned. Instead there was a theatrical hour long tirade that included jokes, anecdotes, advice and the occasional insult. He also, "for 20 bucks Canadian" to donate to the cause, sold the T-shirt right off his back.

That allowed him to don shirt, tie and sportsjacket, in order to change from "Superschmuck to Clark Kent" that is, - from Abbie Hoffman into Barry Freed, his

persona for the last few years. It was as Barry Freed that he organized, in 1978, a grass roots movement called Save the River, in Fineview, N.Y. And it was in aid of the Canadian chapter of Save The River that he was speaking on Tuesday night.

Hoffman - Freed had been living incognito for 2 years in the tiny hamlet of Fineview on one of the St. Lawrence River's Thousand Islands when news came that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wanted to drastically alter the river in order to allow for winter navigation. "I was building my second dock-real proud-a friend said forget about the dock, they're going to blow up the islands, there's nothing we can do about it." Hoffman-Freed a veteran organizer, knew his friend was wrong about the latter, but any public involvement risked blowing his cover and collecting a life sentence. It came down to a "psychological" issue. "If you turn your back on it, you're already dead - so what the fuck - might as well save the river."

He began to organize, "in bars and barbershops," and when the Army held its public hearings Hoffman - Freed, along with a phenomenal turnout of 700 others, was there raising objections. Those objections, he points out, were in words carefully chosen to reflect local usage - to make him seem like "one of their own. You don't want to be an 'expert'" he says. "That means you're from out of town."

That calculated and informed approach to activism was what Hoffman really came to talk about - with Save The River's successful blocking of the feasibility study as a prime

credential. The "art of community organizing" is the same no matter who the group is", says Hoffman, "you talk to them in their own language, something they can understand."

One thing rural America understands is movies. So when nuclear wastes from Canada's Chalk River were to be transported by truck across the old Thousand Islands Bridge, Hoffman asked to locals if they'd seen The China Syndrome, and went from there. "We got the trucks stopped." Hoffman had more tips. "You don't say 'cause' in the United States because the next thing they'll say is 'lost'. So you talk about issues - and about winning." You don't call yourself an environmentalist either, if you want action. "I call myself an economist," says Hoffman. "People take me more serious. And I can double my fees."

Unabashedly pragmatic, Hoffman made strong sense responding to questions about some of the issues here, for example, how to approach workers at places like Litton Industries. "I wouldn't say (Don't you know it's wrong to make nuclear missiles - naughty, naughty? - they're going to say 'fuck off'. I'd have to go into the bars with them and have a Molson, talk about the Expos, I wouldn't start with it." But if Hoffman talks to people "in their own language" his bad grammar and sometimes gratuitous use of vulgarities on Tuesday night makes one wonder who he thought that audience was.

He knew we were Canadians. "Oh Canada, poor Canada, so far from God and so close to the United States - make up your fucking mind!" To Washington, says

Hoffman, "you're just another third-world country, no matter how white you are." But that doesn't excuse our "standing around". The U.S. Army is still making plans to tamper with the river yet most of the locks and most of the water is ours. "If you're a bystander in 1982," says Hoffman, "you ain't innocent." Canadians need to

form coalitions with like-minded groups in the U.S., but the bottom line is what hits home - "We need to think globally and work locally."

Aside from acknowledging his particular chutzpah, Hoffman stresses that he is not unique. The notion that "the idealism of the 60s is disillusioned in the 70s and gets greedy in the 80s" is a

media myth. "You can't have a war movement without a war and you can't raise kids in the city, so they went to the country, and nine tenths kept the faith." Because the media focus on the cities, the grass roots Nuclear Freeze last spring caught them by surprise. "They said 'How did this happen? But we knew a year and a half ago."



To all York students,
we would like to extend our
warmest greetings for a
very merry Christmas and
a happy and prosperous
New Year.

Best of luck on your
examinations. See you
back on the 3rd of January.
Student Relations Office
S102 Ross Building
667-2226

Mrs. Alda Gomez
Mrs. Brenda Williams
Mr. John Becker

Those of you who are anxiously
awaiting your refunds for courses
dropped... **DO NOT FRET.** Your
cheques will be in the mail by
Dec. 21, 1982.

