

# Mistakes weren't made to be repeated

By Steve Medcroft  
YELLIN' REBEL

*Imagine there's no country  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion too  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace  
You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one.*  
— John Lennon - 'Imagine'

When Lennon was alive it was easy for an entertainer in his position, his stature, fame and public notice to spout general statements of a concept of a utopian peace.

Now don't get me wrong. Lennon was sincere and a genius it's just that his type of thinking only applied to the average person like you and me in reflective, quiet, rationalizing moments of question.

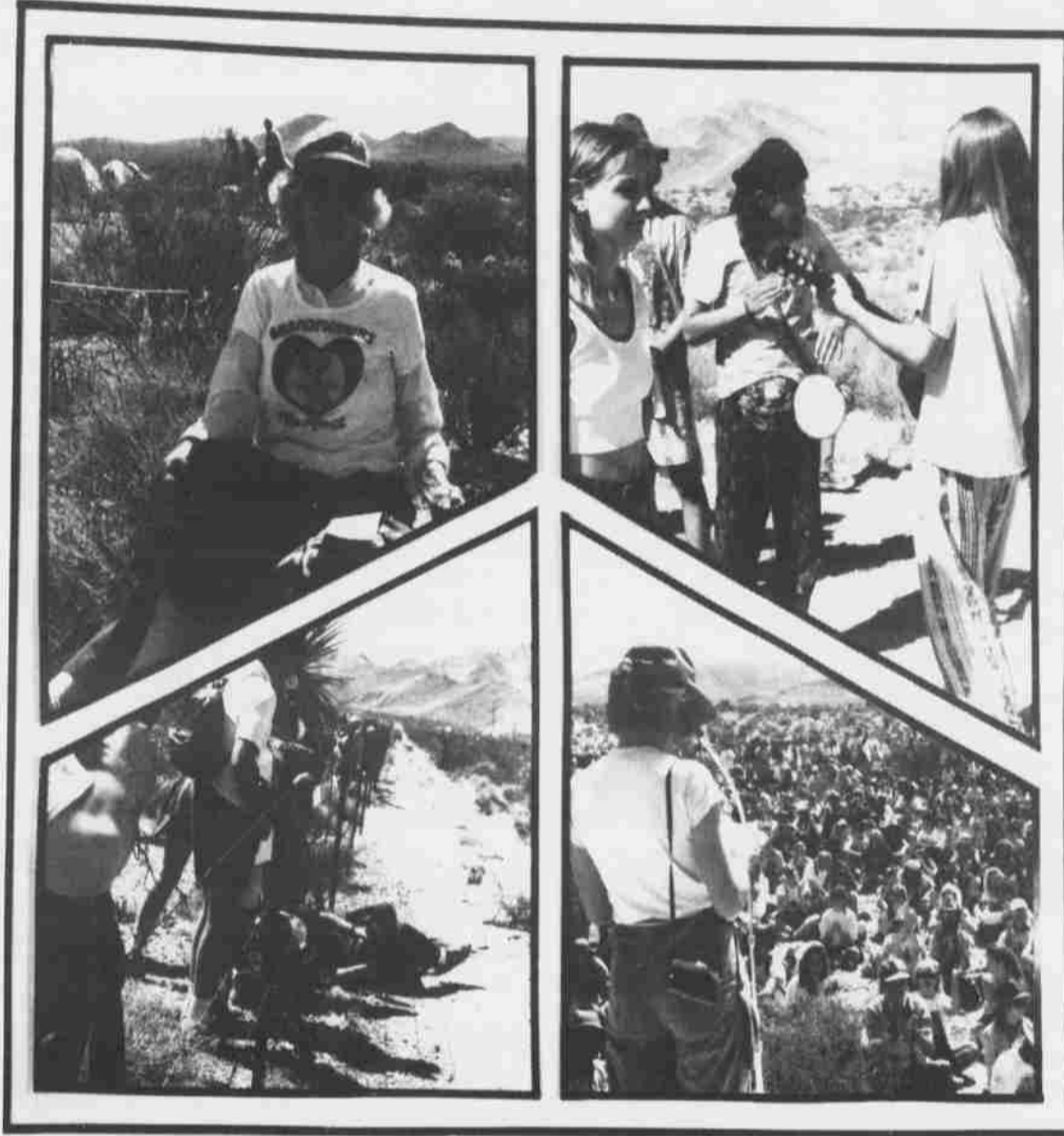
How did the world get into such a frustrated and abused state? Maybe it's because world population is at an all-time high and still swelling. How can we stop if we are the only species on the planet that treats sex as recreation and not just procreation.

It's ironic that America is one of the largest batterers of mother earth and one of the last civilized societies to come to a collective realization of our neglecting, abusive destructiveness.

But hey, thank God we're almost there. People are now realizing that things like our gas-hoggin' Power-Wagons of the 70's, aerosol sprays, loose industrial waste laws etc. etc. have been playing mind-games (no Lennon pun intended) with the environment in almost irreparable proportions.

Today is a time to put our fat, lazy, destructive society on a diet plan. Something to get us off this 'I don't care what happens beyond the four walls of my home' kick.

Fitting that the EPA sponsored



Earth Day celebration will be held on our own campus Sunday isn't it.

We're moving into a new era of awareness. It's no 'Dawning of the Age of Aquarius' or anything unrealistically idyllic but it's time for individuals like me to make sacrifice and change and start our global clean-up. How? you may well ask in a dark moment of despair and hopelessness about global problems. Well, if you take the example of a locally based group called the American Peace Test, the best route is to band together in groups, or communities, to 'hands-on' fight specific, localized causes while putting your voice behind major organizations who fight the bigger, more out of our reach causes.

Recently (through the official

season of Lent) APT and 5,000 peace protesters from as far away as Russia, Germany(East and West) and Holland travelled to America.

Their goal was to present non-violent direct action against the Nevada Test-Site and show that a burning desire exists to stop nuclear testing.

I went out there on a Friday night. The camp stretched back into the Shoshone Indian Reservation (opposite the Mercury Test-Site gate) for about a mile. We had finished putting up a tent and heard this rhythmic, musical pulse coming from across the highway.

When we made our way across, we were surprised by the site of approximately 1500 people dancing, chanting, pounding bongos and

other instruments along a Test-Site access road.

Some were psyching themselves up for the walk across a cattle-grate and onto Test-Site land for immediate arrest by waiting officers. Others were there for support by playfully taunting the awaiting officers ("join us," they'd chant) and boosting the arrestees.

We stayed for more than an hour during which about 70 people were arrested and the rhythm never slipped.

Over a thousand people were expected to be arrested in the name of a nuclear test ban over the protests' stretch including a one day, mass exodus of hundreds from which these photo's came.

The most impressive element

of the protest (in its sixth year by the way) was the people. They were beautiful to talk to, to listen to and to watch their assertiveness and sense of purpose in their goal.

I came home a little changed — with a better sense of what needs to be done, must be done and a little taste of how to do it.

Fight the localized cause and whole-heartedly support the global cause. Sounds like a lot but think about it; you'll live on this planet for maybe 70 years. Don't you owe it a few hours a week and an over all attitude to leave it healthy for the next generation.

That brings me to the next step. I think education is the most valuable thing we can give our children. on a trip to LA a few weeks ago we stopped at an Arby's in Barstow. Inside was a display by a local 4th grade class. The subject; things they would change to make the world a better place.

One child, Dianna Piona wrote, under the heading 'for my country', "I wish nobody would do drugs. They make our brain messed-up and that's bad for all of us." Under the heading 'for my community' she wrote "I wish all the poor people would have a home and food and clothing. This would be fair."

She closed with the sentence "I want world peace." As I read little Ms. Piona's words I wondered how much she really understood about what she wrote. Was it just an assignment of words without meaning.

I hope not, but just to be on the safe side I think it's a responsibility of parents to show by example how to live an environmentally conscious life, a caring life. Let's not make the same mistakes as many of our parents, who we are now cleaning up after.

All we are saying  
Is give peace a chance  
Thanks John. Peace.

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