

# GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

*The U.S. vs. John Lennon* shows Lennon's proposal for peace.

SARA MCKEE  
FEATURE EDITOR

"War Is Over If You Want It." John Lennon and Yoko Ono's controversial statement was posted on billboards in 11 cities in 1969 in protest of the Vietnam War. Lennon's anti-war sentiment is the main focus of the documentary *The U.S. vs. John Lennon* set to be released nationwide September 29.

The documentary, made by David Leaf and John Scheinfeld, includes footage of Lennon's early years of transforming from lovable Beatle to anti-war activist.

"We literally searched the world for every last bit of film of him. We wanted to make a movie that had no narrator. We wanted John to tell his own story. You have him telling you the story every step of the way," Leaf said in a press release at the Venice Film Festival.

The movie begins before Christmas in 1970, right after the Beatles officially broke up. The movie includes footage of Lennon and Ono's honeymoon where they performed a bed-in for peace, which was an anti-war performance from their bed. Lennon explained his philosophy behind the bed-in at a press release as a way to "expend the least energy to maximum effect."

Other highlights in the documentary include footage of Richard Nixon's presidency and the anti-war demonstrations. Many critics believe that the documentary parallels George

W. Bush's presidency and the current war in Iraq.

"There is no way to watch this film without hearing echoes of the past with what is going on in the world today. It is unfortunate that the world is at war again. I think a story about John Lennon, who was fearless in his campaign for peace, is particularly relevant in a time when fear seems to rule," Leaf said.

Another similarity between the documentary and the present day is the nature of the Lennon protest concerts and more recent performances such as the Vote for Change tour where many famous artists performed together for a singular cause. "We are here to fight for a government that is open, rational, forward-looking and humane," Bruce Springsteen said while on stage at the Vote for Change tour.

The movie also closely follows Lennon's solo career as it takes off with albums such as "Power to the People" and "Imagine," classic protest albums. Forty songs are featured in the movie including 37 of Lennon's solo songs.

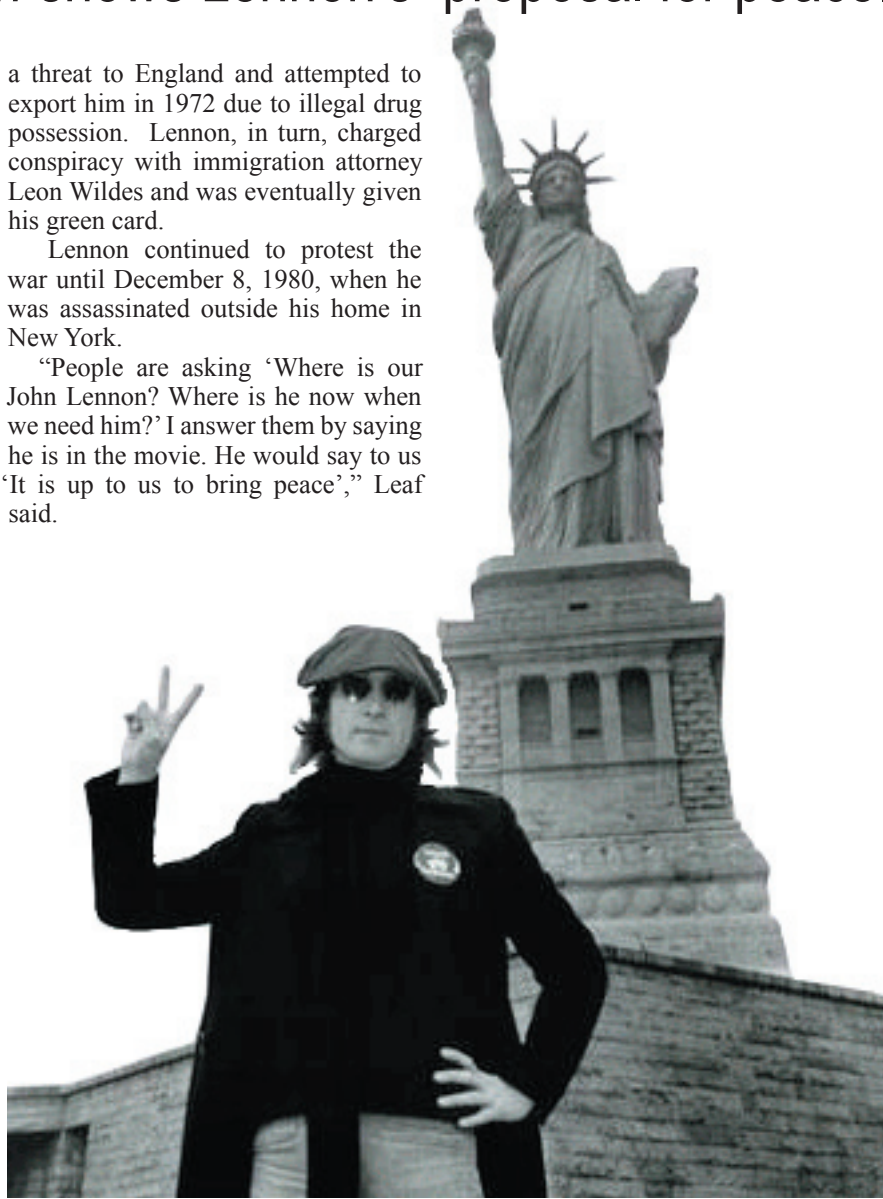
In the song "Imagine" Lennon wrote, "All we are saying, is give peace a chance." Many historians believe that it was this clear cut line that caused the European and American governments (particularly the Nixon administration), to keep Lennon on constant surveillance because of Lennon's passion and his ability to sway the opinions of the masses.

The government felt that he was

a threat to England and attempted to export him in 1972 due to illegal drug possession. Lennon, in turn, charged conspiracy with immigration attorney Leon Wildes and was eventually given his green card.

Lennon continued to protest the war until December 8, 1980, when he was assassinated outside his home in New York.

"People are asking 'Where is our John Lennon? Where is he now when we need him?' I answer them by saying he is in the movie. He would say to us 'It is up to us to bring peace'," Leaf said.



## High Frequency: Teen Buzz ringtone deceives adults

ANNE ROBERTSON  
FEATURE WRITER

Tired of getting cellphones taken away when they ring during tests? Thanks to inventor Howard Stapleton, students can receive text messages during classes without teachers even noticing. The secret to keeping text messages top-secret is in the ringtone.

A gadget called the Mosquito was manufactured by British company Compound Security. The device emits a sound regulating at 17 kilohertz (kHz). Due to a condition called presbycusis, or the aging ear, many people over 20 years old start to lose the ability to hear frequencies below 18 kHz, according to [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com).

Most basic human interactions are done between 200 and 8,000 hertz, so humans do not have much use for any hearing ability higher than that, according to [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com). Stapleton developed the Mosquito as a tool to keep young people from loitering about stores. Since the device emits a high frequency tone that is often described by teenagers and adults as "annoying," it bothers people and can force them to

leave. It has now been converted into a ringtone by some of Stapleton's young neighbors. "This was originally a great idea because from an adults' perspective teenagers are really quite intimidating. If I am a prospective shopper, I would find them intimidating," Physics Teacher Brian McCarthy said.

The Mosquito was unveiled in 2005, and though effective in making teenagers leave storefronts, the inventors of the Mosquito have run into a few trouble spots with the device since it was accused of attacking the health of young people.

"A tone at the level of 17 kHz is not enough to cause any harm to a person or damage someone's hearing. It is harmless, but annoying," McCarthy said.

Thanks to some teenagers in Stapleton's hometown, the Mosquito device is now being used for the teenagers' benefit. The Teen Buzz ringtone (also called the Mosquito Ringtone, Mosquitotone, or Zumbiton) emits a 14.4 kHz tone which on average is undetected by adults but heard by most young people under 20 years old.

Students have reported success with using them in class.

"When I heard about it I did not believe it at first," said Donna Lewis, a technology teacher at the Trinity School in Manhattan in an article for *The New York Times*. "But one of the kids gave me a copy, and I sent it to a colleague. She played it for her first graders. All of them could hear it, and neither she nor I could."

Many teachers have continued with their lessons completely oblivious to the laughter of the students and the high-frequency chirping echoing in the classroom. However, some students have also reported that their teachers did hear

the noise despite their age since hearing abilities vary from person to person.

"I believe that cell phones in general are okay. There is a time and place, [but] they should not be used in the classroom," said McCarthy.

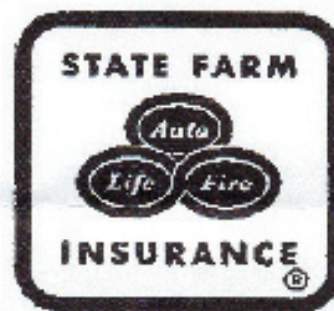
The Mosquito is useful in situations where cell phones are prohibited because it allows children to receive text messages without disturbing adults.

To download the ringtone visit [compoundsecurity.com](http://compoundsecurity.com), [mosquitoringtones.com](http://mosquitoringtones.com), [highring.com](http://highring.com), or [2thumbswap.com](http://2thumbswap.com) to hear Teen Buzz ringtones at various frequencies.

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Physics Teacher

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Thanks H-F!

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