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The U.S. vs. John Lennon to be shown at Hansen  
May 16, 2007

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – There will be a screening of the recently released documentary *The U.S. vs. John Lennon* on Thursday, May 17 at 8 p.m. at the Hansen Student Center (300 Beecher St., Bloomington).

Often cited as the most controversial of the four Beatles, Lennon's outspoken anti-war protests in the late sixties and early seventies earned him the special ire of former President Richard Nixon, F.B.I. director J. Edgar Hoover, and Senator Strom Thurmond. Directors David Leaf and John Scheinfeld chronicle Lennon's emergence as a peace activist, briefly touching on the troubled adolescence he spent in the economically depressed area of Liverpool, England and the backlash he and the other Beatles faced as a result of Lennon's infamous "more popular than Jesus" comment. The film delves more deeply into his post-Beatles career, focusing on early demonstrations, such as his bed-ins, and later more radicalized demonstrations, such as the 1971 concert-rally in Ann Arbor, Mich. to free activist John Sinclair, paying particular attention to Nixon's attempts to have Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, deported.

With a soundtrack comprised of his most iconic songs – "Revolution," "Imagine," "Give Peace a Chance," "Instant Karma," and "Working-Class Hero" – and original interviews with Ono, Sinclair, Walter Cronkite, Angela Davis, Bobby Seale, Geraldo Rivera, and Gore Vidal, *The U.S. vs. John Lennon* has been called by critics "required viewing for anyone who considers himself a fan of the man and his music," and a documentary showing "how far government will go to throttle opposition but also how, sometimes, you can fight the establishment and win."

For additional information, contact Kevin Clark, assistant dean of students at (309) 556-3850 or [kclark@iwu.edu](mailto:kclark@iwu.edu).

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