



Abbie Hoffman

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Twenty years can be a very long time. It can turn a household name into a non-entity, it can turn a radical into a capitalist and it can put two friends and former compatriots on opposite sides of the fence.

Meet Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin.

They were part of the famous Chicago Seven who caused riots at the 1968 Democratic Party National Convention. They were co-founders of the Youth International Program (YIP). They were hippies.

Hoffman first became politically active in the early '60s with the civil rights movement, but later turned his attention to the peace movement. One of his most successful political pranks was dumping a flurry of dollar bills on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on a busy day, attracting worldwide media attention.

In 1973, Hoffman was charged with the possession of \$36,000 worth of cocaine, but jumped bail for fear of an unfair trial and went underground for six and one-half years. Under his assumed name, Barry Freed, he remained politically active and became an environmental activist in New York. He re-entered society in 1980 and served one year in prison on a reduced charge.

Rubin also became involved in the civil rights movement in the early '60s and left Berkeley to become a full-time activist opposing the Vietnam War.

In 1966, he ran for Mayor of Berkeley on an anti-war campaign and came in second out of four candidates with a quarter of the votes.

However, in 1982, Rubin joined the American "establishment" that he had opposed for so many years. He set up "Networking Salons" at New York's Studio 54 disco where people from the entertainment and financial worlds discuss business.

Hoffman still uses the same techniques of political activism that he used in the '60s, but says he is not really a Yippie anymore.

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