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some cases of a particularly in children, but to treat

mother who swallowed medicine during the crucial period being unaffected.

the total fat, cholesterol and calorie values of common foods. It is straightforward, easy to read

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Baez, a survivor who still sings for peace

The voice of the 1960s protest movement has kept to her beliefs but the style 25 years on has changed, reports Elizabeth M. Thomson

When Joan Baez steps on stage at the Glastonbury CND Festival this afternoon, she may recall another festival, 25 years ago this July, where she appeared unannounced and stole the show. *The New York Times* observed: "A star was born at the first Newport Folk Festival in the person of Joan Baez, a young soprano with a thrilling, lush vibrato and fervid, well controlled projection."

Had she any idea that, 25 years on, she would still be appearing around the globe? "When you're young, you don't think about it that way, you really don't", she explained earlier this week. "You're just determined, and if you survive, you survive. I'm one of the survivors."

"I'm healthier now than I was then, and I'm glad I don't have to relive it all. It's a lot easier now. I feel awful when I watch the young people, because I never crosses their minds that it won't last for ever, and 99 per cent of the time it doesn't."

Baez seems to be the exception that proves the proverbial rule. In terms of approach, if not always in terms of material, she has remained true to her folk roots. American record companies are pressuring her to cut loose and aim for the cosmos, to forget about the social comment.

Both she and they, it has been pointed out, could make a lot of money. Baez is not interested and has looked instead to Europe, where *Childreft of the Eighties*, an album in the traditional Baez style went gold overnight.

- 1960s youth in particular - need not always give way to complacency. Such strength of character inevitably provokes strong reaction, and it is hard not to be partisan.

In the United States the FBI has long regarded her as a dangerous subversive. On the other hand, two universities there awarded her honorary doctorates to mark her commitment to peace and human rights. Some may regard her as too good to be true, yet anyone who knows her will tell you that she's sincere, "eminently human, totally for real".

Baez says: "In the States I have a difficult time with record companies but I don't have a difficult time with audiences. The public and the record companies are becoming two separate items. My battle in the 1980s is to find ways that I can put my talents to best use. I do not want to be outwitted. Neither do I want to be the world's cutest granny."

She jokes frequently about "ripping along towards middle age" but once long and black, is now short and heavily silvered but she still looks less than her 43 years.

The resemblance to her Irish - Scottish mother, after whom she is named, always striking, is now almost uncanny.

Back in the 1960s, of course, the image of the raven-haired madonna was copied the world over. "I wore globes of make-up but the press didn't want to see that and they said, 'Wow, she really doesn't wear any make-up!' People see what they want to see."

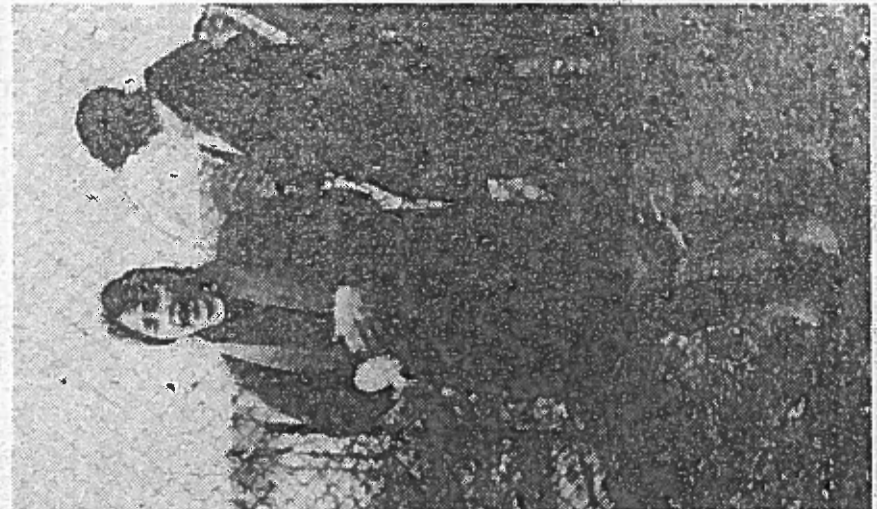
the Virgin Mary, I thought that was pretty hot stuff!"

She has loosened up a lot since those days - thanks in part, no doubt, to the ambiguities of living life as a practising pacifist. Baez came to radical non-violent activism as a teenager, through the Quaker meetings attended by the entire Baez clan.

Ira Sandperl, a Gandhian scholar, introduced her to a philosophy that continues to govern her daily life. The periods of silent contemplation, so difficult at those first Quaker meetings, are still invoked.

Non-violent activism gave her a focus, a *raison d'être*. At 16, recognizing that hiding under a desk was no way to protect and survive, she opted out of a school "duck and cover" practice. She marched with Martin Luther King, fostered a school for the study of non-violence, did time in jail for her work against the draft and spoke out against the Vietnam war.

In the 1970s radical America preferred to forget South-East Asia and Baez split the old left when she denounced the Hanoi Government for its dubious human rights record. The move led directly to the founding of Humanitas - International Human Rights Committee and a six-week, million-dollar fund-raising drive.



Three ages of Baez: in a 1967 flower power protest, singing for peace in 1978, and at Greenham Common in the 1980s

become a Methodist minister and was cut off from the family: you were Catholic there or you were nothing.

"I don't mean to sound pretentious, but if one accepts that one's gifts are not one's own, then it becomes manageable. They are given to you for a purpose."

Her religious motivation has led her to the bomb shelters of Hanoi and the refugee camps of Cambodia; to the Soviet Union and meetings with Sakharov and other dissidents; to Latin America, its shanty towns and its government offices; and then to Capitol Hill and an address to Congress.

She explains: "One has the feeling that there is no movement. There are groups, but there isn't any glue." The founder and president of Humanitas, an educational human rights group based on Gandhian principles, hopes to work as a catalyst in fusing those groups into a movement; the ultimate goal is to link groups east and west. "I need patience", she confessed. "I don't feel as though I'm there. I keep swatting in the dark."

Could the 1990s bring a new period of idealism, a regrouping of the forces of the 1960s into some kind of "Greens" movement? "I suppose it's possible. But I see the wave as a little way off," she says. The current mood of student conservatism was probably due to the economic situation, the scramble

In 1968 Baez married student activist David Harris. The couple met "doing civil disobedience" together and Harris served a long jail term for aiding and abetting draft resisters.

Their separation considerably strained their marriage and they divorced in 1973. Their son Gabriel, is now 14.

"It's not an easy position for any kid", she says. "He understands my political work. Musically he's into Van Halen. But he came to a concert recently and I think he was surprised by what his old mum could do." Now, as before, Baez rejects the glitz and glamour of showbusiness, living quietly in a modest home outside San Francisco, close to the offices of Humanitas and not too far from the high school where she first