



## Change of Subject

OBSERVATIONS, REPORTS, TIPS, REFERRALS AND TIRADES

BY ERIC ZORN

### 9 songs and a lesson for all of us

Old devil time, consider yourself fooled.

Marge Weber, 79, of Elk Grove Village, has just released her first CD, "The Circle Game," an album of nine folk songs.

Included on the disc is Pete Seeger's defiant, hopeful "Old Devil Time," which begins "

*Old devil time, I'm gonna fool you now  
Old devil time, you'd like to bring me  
down.*



She played and sang it at the release party Tuesday night at Chicago's Grafton Pub and Grill, the lyrics a reminder that she took up guitar at 70, when most people are thinking about conclusions rather than beginnings.

She told me, "Whenever I think about starting something new that I know will take a very long time to accomplish, my first thought is, 'I'm going to be so old by the time that's finished ....' Then I come back with, 'I'm going to be so old anyway, I might as well just do it!'"

And so she did. With the help and encouragement of Mark Dvorak, her guitar teacher at the Old Town School of Folk Music, the grandmother of 15 said she "found a place of total acceptance" among the school's supportive community of students and teachers. Many were on hand at the jammed pub where Dvorak, who produced and played on the CD, [released on his Ten Fingers label](#), accompanied the performance.

This is not an amazing story — 79 is hardly synonymous with decrepitude — but an inspirational tale. Pick up that instrument! Take that language class! Learn that skill! Write that book! Remember Marge Weber and say to hell with old devil time.