

# Audience Happily Joins Seeger in Attack on Evil

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Early in his show Friday night, Pete Seeger told the near-capacity audience at Memorial Auditorium his classic story of Obeyoyo. It is a story that shows how brute force can be overcome by music and magic. Ever since he began performing 45 years ago, Pete has been using his music and his magic to battle the forces of evil. He did it again for the Burlington crowd.

Although his familiar voice might have aged a bit, many of the classic songs and performances were there. "Where Have All the Flowers Gone,"



"If I Had a Hammer," Leadbelly's "Goodnight, Irene" and, of course, Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" were all warmly received. Woody Guthrie once said that music should be "the sound of garbage cans rumblin' in the night," so who can hold a bit of raspiness against Pete?

Besides, he let the audience know early, "You might as well know, these songs will sound a lot better if you help me sing them." And no one in the audience could deny his request. Pete could get Harpo Marx to sing along with him.

He is more a part of the audience than he is a star performer. Before the show, he rambled around the stage in jeans and flowered shirt, chatting with some kids, relaxing, tuning his banjo which proclaims, "This machine surrounds hate and forces it to surrender." During the intermission, he gathered a crowd

around and showed them how his computerized lyric translating screen worked.

Yes, that's right, Pete has entered the age of high tech. The evening was a benefit for the Burlington-Puerto Cabezas Sister City Program and many of the songs were performed in Spanish and broadcast on the screen. These songs included "Oh Nicaragua" and his classic "Guantanamo," which he said he has sung in 35 countries and "Who knows, I might even sing it in the Northeast Kingdom."

Other songs were set closer to home, including "Maple Sugar Time" and "The Bennington Rifleman," about our state's history.

The flow of history, especially very modern history, might have robbed Pete of a bit of his optimism. On songs like Bob Dylan's "Hard Rain," he seems a bit unsure of

whether the world is going to make it. But he never stops trying to help.

Pete is a world-famous entertainer, but he achieved this status without really using the mass media. Rather, he did it the hard way, the

more truthful and meaningful way. He got millions of people to recognize him by playing for 50 people at a union hall, for a hundred people at a rally for a good cause, for friends of friends and ex-strangers.