

WAR, PEACE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST      SEPT 29, 1990

**STUDY WAR NO MORE....SWEET HONEY....FADED AT SIGNAL UNDER MY VOICE:**

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE, A SPECIAL ONE-HOUR EDITION, TONIGHT FOCUSING ON WAR, PEACE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST, with some limericks and other poetry, AND ALSO FEATURING A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY OWEN DAVIS, A UNIQUE AND POWERFUL PERFORMER, LATER ON IN THE SHOW.

A CHILD ASKED--WHAT IS WAR  
HOW COULD I ANSWER THE CHILD?  
COULD I TELL HER OF  
THE BLOOD MATTED INTO MUD  
THE SHEER SICKENING CARNAGE  
THE PRECIOUS CHILDREN LOST  
TRAUMATIZED, STARVING EYES,  
UPON A PLANET with  
THE CAPACITY TO FEED, CLOTHE,  
TEACH, AND CARE FOR EVERYONE  
AND YET STAYS MIRED IN THIS  
MADNESS WE CALL WAR  
A CHILD ASKED--WHAT IS WAR  
HOW COULD I ANSWER THE CHILD?

EXCEPT TO SAY  
THAT WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER!

WHEN THE NEWS OF THE IRAQI INVASION OF KUWAIT AND THE SUBSEQUENT AND SEEMING SUDDEN BUT ACTUALLY LONG-PREPARED MASSIVE U.S. MILITARY BUILDUP FIRST HIT THE HEADLINES, AND THE NETWORK ANCHORS STARTED RACING AROUND THE WORLD TO BOOST THEIR RATINGS, I WAS REMINDED OF THE TIME MANY YEARS AGO, IN 1956, WHEN THE U.S. MARINES INVADED LEBANON TO PREVENT A DEMOCRATIC NATIONALIZATION THERE. MY FATHER AND SOME OF HIS FRIENDS GOT TOGETHER AND SILKSCREENED GIGANTIC POSTERS IN OUR GARAGE. THEN EARLY THE NEXT MORNING THEY GLUED THEM ONTO LONG WOODEN FENCES THROUGHTOUT SAN FRANCISCO. THE POSTERS HAD HUGE LETTERS ASKING THE QUESTION -- "WHY DIE FOR STANDARD OIL?" AND IN THE MIDDLE, BETWEEN WHY DIE FOR AND STANDARD OIL WAS A GIANT DROP. IT WAS A DROP THAT WAS GOLDEN ON TOP AND RED ON THE BOTTOM, A GIANT DROP OF OIL CHANGING INTO A DROP OF BLOOD.

THAT IMAGE HAS STAYED WITH ME ALL MY LIFE--IT WAS A POWERFUL WAY TO GET PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT U.S. INTERVENTION AND WHAT IT REALLY MEANT. AT SEVERAL OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS I'VE BEEN TO RECENTLY TO DEMAND THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM THE GULF I'VE SEEN THAT SILKSCREEN ECHOED BY NEWER POSTERS...NO WAR FOR MIDEAST OIL...AND I'M HERE TONIGHT TO SALUTE THE COURAGE OF ALL THOSE DEMONSTRATORS, teach-in organizers, AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES AND RESERVES WHO HAVE REFUSED TO BE TAKE PART IN THIS MADNESS, WHO HAVE BEGUN, DESPITE SEEMINGLY ENORMOUS AND OVERWHELMING ODDS, TO TRY TO TURN THIS MADNESS AROUND.

YES, THIS MADNESS, FOR ALL THE SOCIAL DECAY WE SEE ALL AROUND US, THE MADNESS AND MAYHEM AND VIOLENCE AND HOPELESSNESS AND YES, CHEMICAL WARFARE that WE SEE IN crack-permeated STREETS, THAT'S ALL TOO TRUE, BUT LET'S TURN SOME ATTENTION AS WELL to THE MADNESS THAT PASSES FOR WORLD LEADERSHIP. THE MADNESS WITH THE BUTTON-DOWN EXTERIOR OF DAVID SOUTER OR GEORGE BUSH -- Bush, WHO, IF WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT CHEMICAL WARFARE, not only sold all kinds of weapons to Iraq, but WAS A MAJOR ARCHITECT OF THE MASSACRE OF MILLIONS IN VIETNAM...as in this song Agent Orange, sung by Kate Wolf.

**tape INSERT \* AGENT ORANGE -- KATE WOLF** (may fade at signal)

I'M ALSO HERE TONIGHT TO ASK WHY IT TOOK ONE MONTH, AN ENTIRE MONTH AFTER THE KUWAIT INVASION, FOR THE WASHINGTON PAST TO MANAGE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON THE HISTORY OF THE REGION? WHY IT TOOK ONE MONTH BEFORE THE U.S. CITIZENRY WAS TOLD BY ITS FREE PRESS THAT IT WAS BRITISH COLONIALISM THAT, IN AN ARM-TWISTING DEAL IN A TENT WITH FEUDAL RULERS, CREATED THE COUNTRIES AND DIVISIONS THERE AND DELIBERATELY CREATED A CLIENT STATE OF KUWAIT TO CUT OFF IRAQ'S ACCESS TO THE SEA. OR WHY IT TOOK SO LONG TO REVEAL THAT U.S. HIGHLEVEL MESSAGES TO IRAQ and discussions with saddam hussein MAY HAVE MISLED him INTO ASSUMING A MUCH LESS EXTREME RESPONSE, AND MAY EVEN HAVE SET HIM UP, THUS ALLOWING BUSH AND THE MILITARY TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HAS BEEN A LONG RANGE STRATEGIC GOAL--MILITARY BASES IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE ABILITY TO PROP UP THAT ALSO EXTREMELY BRUTAL REGIME AS IT FACES INTENSIFIED DEMOCRATIC PRESSURES FROM ITS OWN POPULATION.

From  
Agent  
Orange  
to  
carpet  
bombing.

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IN FACT, WHAT THIS US INTERVENTION REALLY MEANS IS THAT THE growing PRESSURES TO democratize the middle east, especially to RESOLVE THE CENTRAL QUESTION, the real heart of the matter, regarding THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION, as the intifada resistance continues along isreal's brutal repression of it, HAVE now LED TO A SITUATION WHERE THE U.S. CAN NO LONGER RELY ON ISRAEL or SAUDI ARABIA or iran or iraq or some other state, TO TEND TO ITS INTERESTS THERE--AND THUS INVADES DIRECTLY.

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CERTAINLY THE MORALIZING ABOUT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY DON'T MEAN DIDDLEY WHEN IT COMES FROM THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED WAR CRIMES AND GENOCIDE IN INDOCHINA, TERRORIZED NICARAGUA, INVADED PANAMA AND GRENADA, BOMBED LIBYA, BACKED ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND INVASION OF LEBANON, AND SO ON.

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AND I'M HERE TO ASK WHY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS, WOMEN AND MEN, AND BILLIONS PER DAY IN U.S. TAXPAYER-GOUGED MONEY ARE BEING PUMPED INTO THE SAND SIEVE OF GREED AND CORRUPTION. The bitter irony of women being sent to the war in a country of veils and oppression even as reproductive and other rights are threatened at home. The US government, UNLESS WE AND THE NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, and especially the Arab nations themselves, ARE ABLE TO STOP IT, is PROVOKING A SITUATION THAT IS VERY LIABLE TO TURN THAT OIL DROP INTO BLOOD, TO THREATEN THE LIVES, LIBERTY, AND HAPPINESS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE EARTH, ESPECIALLY those IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO BRING THE TERROR AND DESTRUCTION OF WAR.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN -- WAR TAPE INSERT...LB READS LIMERICKS OVER IT, WHEN THE TAPE ENDS, STOP IT, SEGUE INTO THE RECORD TEMPTATIONS ALSO WAR. HAVE NEXT TAPE insert READY FOR WHEN LB ENDS THE LIMERICKS..AND STARTS TALKING ABOUT MARVIN GAYE...

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WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER...AND I'M HERE TO ASK WHY, IN THIS SO-CALLED CITADEL OF DEMOCRACY, WHOSE CONSTITUTION EXPRESSLY PROVIDES THAT CONGRESS ALONE SHALL HAVE THE POWER TO DECLARE WAR, THERE HAS BEEN HARDLY A PEEP FROM THIS AUGUST BODY, AS THE ENTIRE U.S. MILITARY APPARATUS HAS BEEN SHIFTED FROM A RAPIDLY-TRANSFORMING EUROPE TO A HIGHLY VOLATILE MIDDLE EAST, AND AWAITS ONLY THE HYPOCRITICAL ORDERS OF BUSH AND HIS TOP BRASS, TO ENGAGE IN MASSIVE MURDER, MAYHEM, MADNESS, AND DESTRUCTION.

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# 2 -> Insert Tape Marvin Gaye - What's Going On

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AND NEED I SAY THAT ALL OF THIS COMES ALONG AS WHAT NO LESS THAN NEWSWEEK DESCRIBED AS A DREAM COME TRUE FOR DEFENSE LOBBYISTS, WHEN THE MILITARY BUDGET SEEMED ABOUT TO BE CUT SUBSTANTIALLY DUE TO THE PEACE DIVIDEND, WHEN THE SAVINGS AND LOAN CRISIS AND NEAL BUSH HIMSELF WERE MAKING IT BLARINGLY OBVIOUS THAT WE NOT ONLY HAVE BEEN RIPPED OFF MUCH MORE THAN USUAL, BUT ARE NOW ARE GOING TO BE FORCED TO PAY FOR IT AS WELL. AND WHEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISIS IN THIS COUNTRY HAS REACHED HUGE PROPORTIONS, FROM HOMELESSNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT TO GENOCIDAL DRUG ADDICTION, CRIMINAL LACK OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE, THE AIDS EMERGENCY, THE POVERTY AND STARVATION OF CHILDREN, THE ASTRONOMICAL HOMICIDE RATE, AND THE LIST GOES ON.

IN FACT, THE ECONOMIC RECESSION IS ONE WAY TO PUT THE US MIDDLE EAST INVASION IN PERSPECTIVE...WITH THE RISING ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF A NOW UNIFIED GERMANY AND JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES IS LEFT WITH ONLY MILITARY, NO LONGER ECONOMIC, SUPERIORITY. WITH THE SOVIET UNION NO LONGER SERVING AS A MILITARY BUFFER, THE UNITED STATES RULERS ARE USING THAT MILITARY SUPERIORITY TO ADVANTAGE IN THIS SITUATION. SINCE GERMANY AND JAPAN ARE MUCH MORE DEPENDENT THAN THE U.S. ON MIDEAST OIL, IF THE U.S. CAN DOMINATE THAT REGION AND ITS OIL DISTRIBUTION, IT HOLDS A KEY CHIP, HAS A GREAT DEAL OF LEVERAGE OVER THESE TWO AND OTHER RIVALS. CALL IT OILMAIL...ADD TO OIL THE HUGE NEW ARMS SALES TO BOLSTER THE US ECONOMY IN THE CLASSIC CAPITALIST MANNER AND WE HAVE THE OTHER HALF OF THE EQUATION THAT IN THIS CASE SEEMS TO EQUAL WAR--- OIL AND ARMS--THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

BUT I'M ALSO HERE TO SAY THAT YOU NEEDN'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE LEARN TO THINK FOR OURSELVES -- AN ABILITY WHOSE FOSTERING IS SADLY NEGLECTED IN FAR TOO MANY OF OUR ALSO IN CRISIS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. WE ALL NEED TO INVESTIGATE WHAT'S GOING ON, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS INCREDIBLY COMPLEX AND INTERESTING REGION OF THE WORLD, WHOSE FERTILE CRESCENT BIRTHED SO MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMANITY, AND WHOSE OIL HAS BECOME THE MAIN BONE OF CONTENTION FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. WE NEED TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES OF NEWSPAPERS, AND PASS AROUND INFORMATION. IN TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS, I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THE NEWYORKER'S "TALK OF THE TOWN" COLUMN WAY OUT IN FRONT, AS WITNESS THIS QUOTE DURING THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE CRISIS, AND THIS ONE LATER...AND EVEN TO SEE A DECENT ESSAY IN TIME BY OTTO FRIEDRICH ENTITLED "THE CASE AGAINST WAR." (LB reads a few paragraphs)

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ONE WAY TO GATHER INFORMATION AND DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS IS TO TAKE PART IN TEACH-INS AND OTHER EVENTS THAT ARE SCHEDULED AROUND THIS ISSUE, IN WHICH A WIDE SPECTRUM OF GROUPS AND VIEWPOINTS HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED, ALL UNITED BY THE RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO BRING THIS EVER MORE DANGEROUS CRISIS TO A PEACEFUL CONCLUSION. IN THE BAY AREA, HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE EVENTS CURRENTLY PLANNED: LB reads from a few leaflets....

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at end...on my cue go to

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**Marvin gaye tape insert \* save the children....**

save the children...marvin gaye...I'VE HEARD OWEN DAVIS PERFORM ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS, INCLUDING AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN BERKELEY, AND I'VE BEEN STRUCK BY THE POWER OF HIS MESSAGE AND DELIVERY--SINCE THEN I'VE WANTED TO BRING HIM TO THE KPFA AIRWAVES. OWEN IS, AS HE TOLD ME, A BERKELEY ORIGINAL, NOT FROM LA OR SAN FRANCISCO, BUT FROM BERKELEY, RAISED ON 5TH STREET, CHILD OF A BLACK FATHER AND WHITE MOTHER. OWEN GREW UP HERE, AND REMEMBERS THAT HIS FATHER LET HIM TAKE OFF SCHOOL TO HEAR MARIO SAVIO DURING THE FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT, AND HE'S BEEN POLITICALLY INVOLVED EVER SINCE. MUSIC HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A PRIMARY ROLE IN HIS LIFE--THE DRUMS CAME THROUGH FOR HIM AT HARD TIMES AND WHEN HE FACED THE PROBLEMS OF A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY, AND THE MUSIC WAS A UNIFYING, INSPIRING FORCE. AS A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN FOR MANY YEARS, OWEN DAVIS HAS PLAYED, TOURED, AND RECORDED FOR MOTOWN, FOR GROUPS LIKE THE UNDISPUTED TRUTH, THE TEMPTATIONS, BILLY PRESTON, BILL WITHERS, TOWER OF POWER, AND NUMEROUS OTHERS. THE COMMERCIALISM AND OTHER NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE WORK WORE ON HIM; OPPORTUNITIES FOR FULL EXPRESSION OF THE TRUTH WERE SORELY LIMITED. HE ALWAYS KEPT COMING BACK HOME TO BERKELEY, WHERE HE NOW LIVES AND WORKS WITH HIS FAMILY... HE PLAYS WITH SEVERAL GROUPS AND ALSO PERFORMS BY HIMSELF IN AN EMOTIONALLY POWERFUL AND COMPLETELY IMPROVISED STYLE ALL HIS OWN. OWEN DAVIS, WHO CALLS HIMSELF -- A CONGA PLAYER FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM....

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OWEN DAVIS tape INSERT \* end---love yourself....

I'LL TAKE YOU THERE--STAPLE SINGERS on record, segued into HOLLY NEAR THE great PEACE MARCH also on record

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HOLLY NEAR with the great peace march. she WILL BE APPEARING ON OCTOBER 20TH AT ZELLERBACH HALL IN BERKELEY, THAT'S THE EVENING OF THE BIG OCTOBER 20TH DEMONSTRATION. AND LET ME PUT A DIFFERENT TWIST ON HOW TO LOOK AT DEMONSTRATIONS BY SUGGESTING THAT, JUST AS HAPPENED WITH VIETNAM, AND IN MORE RECENT POPULAR MOVEENTS AROUND THE WORLD, FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO POLAND, THE MASS POWER OF PEOPLE, AS REPRESENTED in part BY GROWING DEMONSTRATIONS, sometimes CAN, IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL THE OTHER STRATEGIES AND TACTICS OF SOCIAL CHANGE, HAVE A DECISIVE IMPACT ON THE FUTURE. I SPOKE THE OTHER DAY TO MIRANDA BERGMAN, my sister, A MURALIST WHO WAS PART OF A TEAM OF JEWISH WOMEN MURALISTS WHO PAINTED A NUMBER OF MURALS FOR A JUST PEACE IN PALESTINE, WHO TOLD ME ABOUT THE FIRST OF THE RECENT TEACH-INS HELD AT UC BERKELEY which explored the historical background of the crisis. THAT conversation CONCLUDED like this:

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MIRANDA -- INSERT-- THREE DAYS----- NOT TO GET LOST IN THE SHUFFLE IS OUTCUE: TO LB

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NOT LONG AGO, ON A PROGRAM DEDICATED TO THE GREAT AFRICAN AMERICAN POET LANGSTON HUGHES, THIS BLUES FOR PALESTINE AROSE UPON THE BACKGROUND OF A BEAUTIFUL COMPOSITION BY STING CALLED "FRAGILE" WHICH HE WROTE IN MEMORY OF BEN LINDER, THE NORTH AMERICAN ENGINEER WHO WAS MURDERED BY THE CONTRAS IN NICARAGUA...heres THE PALESTINE BLUES...

for

Turkey

to

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PALESTINE BLUES TAPE INSERT #

segue into study war no more...LB talk over

How did they get us embroiled  
The word you dig is oil  
When it seeps up out of soil  
Refined by human toil...

How did they get us engulfed  
The word, you know, is greed  
On guns their economies feed  
Still the peoples will be freed...

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<sup>we</sup>  
A bird from our hands  
Is a signal to Bush  
That no matter how mighty  
He could land on his tush

The outcome of war  
Is never forgone  
All Hell can break loose  
Before it is done

Those who live on this land  
This sand and this soil,  
Seek change overdue  
Now it steams to a boil.

Obscene feudal monarchy  
Certainly dies  
Women winning equality  
Democracy rise.

Let's bring all the troops home  
Nip this war in the bud  
Before one drop of oil  
Turns to barrels of blood.

music up, then under at signal for voice

YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE, HEARD EVERY WEEK AT THIS TIME...THANKS TONIGHT TO OWEN DAVIS, FOR OPENING HIS SPIRIT TO US, TO MIRANDA BERGMAN, ROBBY OSMAN, AND EMILIANO ECHEVERRIA. I'M LINCOLN BERGMAN....THANKS FOR LISTENING AND HAVE A GOOD EVENING...

music up and play it till the end... (thank you my friend...)

Note if we have more time--ha ha--put on masters of war

Revol