

VIETNAM to IRAQ

Part Two: The Activist's Toolbox.
by Kera Abraham

Last week's cover story looked at some of the obstacles facing students who oppose the Iraq War. Here we examine some of the most promising tools for making change.

Learning from History

Our nation's past is riddled with moments both terrible and hopeful, but the truth is always clearer in retrospect. History reminds us to avoid the mistakes of the past and learn from yesterday's heroes.

The Iraq War is couched in a different context than the Vietnam War, but UO history major Emily Howard, 21, sees a parallel reflected in politicians' rhetoric. "They talked about it at the beginning of the war, saying, 'We promise we won't make this another Vietnam,'" she says.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson's administration falsely claimed that North Vietnamese guerillas had attacked American ships in the Gulf of Tonkin,

spurring Congress to pass a near-unanimous resolution to begin aerial bombing of North Vietnam. In 2002, the Bush administration's false accusation that Saddam Hussein harbored weapons of mass destruction prompted Congress to pass a near-unanimous resolution to initiate war against Iraq. The general populace rallied behind both of these resolutions, galvanized by fear — of communism in the 1960s; of terrorism today.

Long-time Eugene activist Marion Malcolm, 65, senses a common goal connecting the two wars. "The government project is the same," she says. "It's global dominance. It's U.S. hegemony. It's

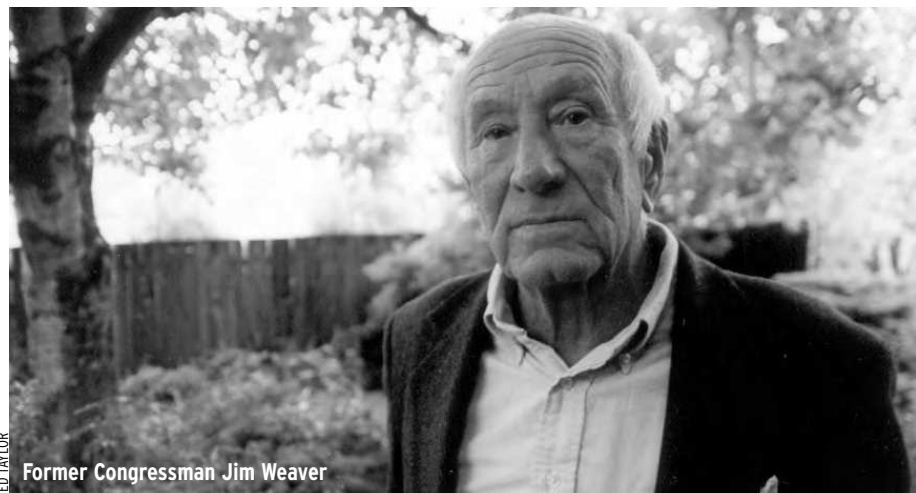
manifest destiny — the idea that we somehow have the right to run all over everybody. It was fueled then, and it remains fueled now, by racism, making a whole group of people the 'other.' That's part of what we need to work against on the deepest levels."

UO journalism student Ryan Duff, 22, suspects that the motives behind the Iraq War are even more insidious than those propelling the Vietnam War. "I think that the Vietnam War was a mistake on our government's part," he says. "For war on Iraq, the public has been intentionally misled. The reasons for the war in Iraq are very well known, and the goals are very clear."

Supporting Anti-war Candidates

In the '60s and '70s, some anti-war UO students and community activists bypassed mainstream media and went straight to the source: local politicians.

At the start of the Vietnam War, Oregon Senator Wayne Morse was one of only two



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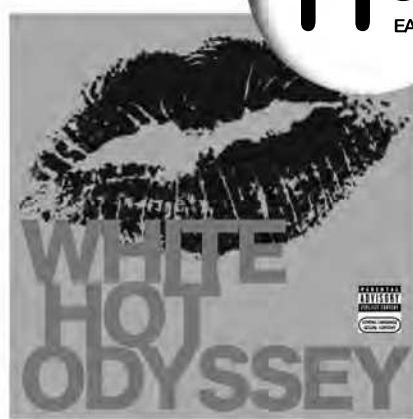
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