



Congressmen to oppose the Gulf of Tonkin resolution. Eugene peace worker Dan Goldrich, 71, remembers the sense of reverence that students held for Senator Morse. "Morse was one of the few politicians who could instantly walk onto any campus in this country and be accorded enormous honor for his honesty and guts. That was scarce," he says.

Jim Weaver, 77, a World War II veteran and a U.S. Representative from 1975-1987, won the support of anti-war liberals when he took a stand against the Vietnam War. "There was a deep-seated feeling that it was immoral, if not evil, what we were doing in Vietnam," he says. "It caused people to do things, like burning down buildings, that you don't see today."

Weaver remembers the public's initial hesitation to oppose the Vietnam War, and he isn't surprised that the movement against the Iraq War stalled after troops entered Baghdad. "You can oppose war before it starts, but a nation at war rallies around its leader," he says. "When I was campaigning for Congress in the late '60s and early '70s, it was not easy to be against the war. I was beaten up several times. People who were against the war were traitors."

Despite that stigma, Weaver says, it's important for anti-war activists to reach out to local politicians. For example, Senator Ron Wyden may have voted against the Iraq War in response to feedback from anti-war groups across Oregon. And Weaver suggests that John Kerry may have fared better in the Nov. 2 election if he had taken a solid anti-war stance. "Kerry wouldn't have been as vulnerable to charges of flip-flopping if he had just said, 'I wouldn't have voted for the war if I knew then what I know now,'" he says.

## The Role of Media

While some things — like the motives for war and the power of politicians — have remained relatively consistent from one war to the next, American media has changed dramatically since the Vietnam War era. With the Internet at our fingertips, it's easier than ever before to access perspectives from across the globe.

"I can tell you on the fingers of my hand

how many Vietnamese people I knew during the Vietnam War," Malcolm says. "Now, if we want to know what the people of the Middle East are feeling and thinking, there are ways to find out."

In the '60s, local peace worker Carol Van Houten, 67, copied anti-war leaflets on a ditto machine. Now she is able to distribute information instantly and easily across cyber-space. "In a way, the Internet takes the place of the big demonstrations," Van Houten says. "The biggest benefit is how quickly an action can be organized and communicated. You can reach people who would never come to a rally. But the biggest disadvantage is that there isn't that sense of community, of coming together."

Ironically, the Internet has expanded while mainstream news has narrowed.

During the Vietnam War, reporters wandered around Southeast Asia unrestricted. As a result, the gruesome details of the war were beamed into living rooms all over America.

But media have been carefully controlled during the Iraq War. Only "embedded," or military-controlled, journalists are allowed into war zones, and the Pentagon has imposed a media blackout on images of the coffins of slain American soldiers.

Duff says that media consolidation and military censorship have caused mainstream news sources to present a skewed view of the Iraq War. "All the information is out there," he says, "but a majority of people only get their news from a few outlets."

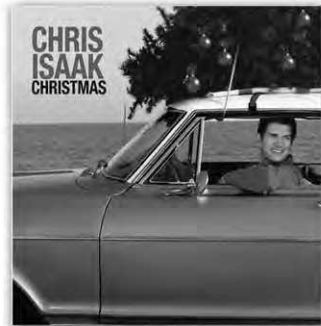
## A Way of Life

Malcolm, Goldrich, Van Houten and Weaver share the view that activism doesn't stop with the end of a war; it is a way of life. While they recognize the Iraq War as a unique event, veteran activists are able to view it as a patch in the quilt of our nation's history.

That perspective is encouraging for student activists who are trying to mobilize their peers against the Iraq War. "We've received a lot of support from people from the Vietnam era who are helping launch the anti-war movement and have been working closely with the students in doing so," Howard says. "They definitely made the administration stop and think about how powerful the people are when they do decide to mobilize. The tenacity of protesting is really important."

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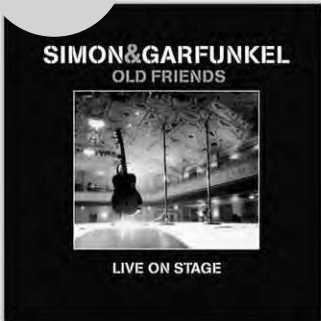
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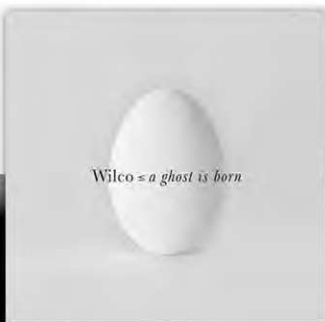
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