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Thank you for writing the Iraq War article titled "War awareness different for students" in the March 24 issue.

This is a very personal issue for my family because we are now counting down the days my brother-in-law, Brandon, has left in the United States. He will soon be leaving for Ft. Hood, Texas, and eventually will go to Iraq. Although my family has been expecting this to happen, it has been a roller coaster of emotions, mostly because we have no idea what to expect.

Brandon's deployment has not only changed my future plans, but my perspective on life as well. While visiting my sister and brother-in-law during Spring Break, my 2-year-old niece asked me if I was going to say goodbye to her dad. I asked her why I should say goodbye, he was sitting right next to me. She replied that I needed to say goodbye because he was going on a long trip.

The room abruptly fell quiet as I suddenly realized that even my niece was prepared for what was about to happen. Now every complaint about residence halls and Harper Dining Center seems minor when compared to what my sister is going to go through for the next two years.

I encourage everyone on campus interested in supporting the troops to send letters and packages through www.anysoldier.com. The cost for supporting one member of the armed forces can cost as little as 39 cents, but is invaluable to a soldier.

Margaret Simpson, freshman

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