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## Bringing The War Home

**F**our country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of our pilgrim's pride, from every mountain side, let freedom ring. Each morning of the war people became more and more patriotic and nationalistic. Awakening to the tune of the National Anthem and other songs with war messages was the wake-up call for many.

Some people were directly affected by the war effort because of family members. Junior Chris Nies has a brother in the Navy and he was glad that his brother was stationed in Florida, but worried that he would be called to the Middle East. Sophomore Rita Davidovich was also extremely concerned. "My family is in Israel and my cousin and uncle are in the military so I was worried about them. I was glued to the television almost all the time," Davidovich said.

A Support the Troops committee was created to organize days and events to show the students' feelings and opinions about the war. On January 25, students were asked to

wear red, white, and blue to show their support. The names of relatives or friends stationed in the Persian Gulf were written on a banner and hung in the commons. Another board with information about soldiers related to Sycamore, was located by the attendance office. This had the name, address, station post, and picture of each service member.

**"It was really neat to hear first hand exactly what was going on over there."**

-Sherri Reich

Another way people chose to become part of the war effort was to write letters to the men and women stationed in the Middle East. Student teacher, Kathy Emmins, has a father in the military and was able to provide interested students with names and addresses to write to. Student Sherri Reich received a letter back from her pen pal and photos of his camp and company. "It was really neat to hear first hand exactly what was going on over there. It made the war seem much more realistic to me. I gained an appreciation for the sacrifice that these people are making," said Reich.

All in all, the effect of the war was really dramatic at Sycamore. Students and teachers alike felt the effects of the war whether or not they knew anyone involved.

by Kara Baxter



While there were many different opinions about the war, there was continued support of the troops. Cathy Bell displays her support in making Support Our Troops pins to distribute in the school.

