



BC Students react to State of the Union

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As the Congress seats fill up, the seats in Coltrane Commons remain mostly empty while Bush preaches to the nation about domestic issues and the future of the war, leaving many students displeased and uninterested.

It was approximately 8:58 pm and Coltrane Commons seems to be at its usual scene with blender noises, random voices, and the crumpling of sandwich paper. What is unusual is the apparent lack of awareness the crowd has to switch the television channel from the prime time sitcom to the traditionally vital speech about The State of the Union. As President Bush prepared to stand before Congress, camera crews, friends, family, and the viewing nation; laughing ensued in the background of Coltrane. Throughout the initial domestic affairs portion of the Presidents speech, besides the two other people watching close to the television, the lounge area grew decently crowded with about nine other students. Most students barely batted an eye at the program and remained undistracted as they continued with their studies, food, and socializing.

When Bush dove into issues concerning the environment's well being and the economy's balance. Sophomore, Wesley Wade from Shelby, NC voiced his concern, "I think it's going to be hard to do what he's talking about. Most American's don't care if they waste gas and just basically care about themselves." According to Wesley it seems useless to guarantee these issues when the nation suffers from a large amount of homeless and poverty stricken



President Bush addresses the nation

Photo from www.state.gov

people. Bush segued into the war portion of the speech, and a rather vocal student yelled, "lies, lies, lies!" elevating a rather apathetic scene and non-important situation.

From the obvious lack of student interest and projected ridicule at the speech, it made it clear that Bush hadn't achieved the overall attention and respect he wanted out of most of America's youth. Sophomore, Chris Casbarro from Hiawassee, FL made his point clear as he commented about Bush's inability to persuade him into concurrence, "Once again, Bush recognizes some big businesses that run our country. If we wanted hear that, we could have watched the stock market report." He claimed that nothing has changed since the last State of the Union address. Bush appeared optimistic about sending more troops to Iraq and supporting the ones presently there.

After the Iraq portion of the speech and Bush's appreciation for

the ease of Dikembe Mutombo's home town of Congo, which was granted a brand new hospital for AIDS relief; the social scene at Coltrane overwhelmed the television and made it difficult to hear the conclusion of Bush's address. Fellow Clarion staff member, Senior, Thomas Cowan from New Orleans, LA expressed his interpretation of the President's expectations, "The only surprise was the lack of humility and apology. The speech seemed redundant and as usual the support our troops mantra to gain support for policy's which are failing." Thomas was affected by hurricane Katrina and was one of the last students remaining to watch the entire speech. "And shame on him for not saying anything about New Orleans!"

Bush's optimism about domestic issues and war in Iraq remain strong and expectations of a more prosperous, united nation, drives his strategy for the upcoming year. The future of student cha-

risma and political enthusiasm will be in the hands of Bush's completion of objectives and Presidential guidance.

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