

## Rhetoric Offers No Solution

By Phil Drake

Staff Writer

Rhetoric isn't going to help the poor and the under-privileged, Mr. President.

In his State of the Union address, President Bush avowed to "lift the nation." He urged Congress to pass his economic plan by March 20, which in the view of many members of the Democrats, is a case of too little, too late.

The basic outline of Bush's plan revolves around four major points:

1) To reduce the Capital Gains Tax to 15.4%

This basically means that any profit which comes from the sale of an individual's property would no be susceptible to less taxation. This measure was supposed to stimulate more investment in the stock market, giving companies more capital, thereby creating the opportunity to create more new jobs.

2) Incentives for first-time home buyers.

Bush would allow buyers to borrow against their pension fund as a down payment on a house.

3) Repealing the controversial passive loss for real estate, which enabled rental property owners to write off their losses against their other passive sources, generally real estate.

4) Bush also proposed to raise the personal exemption for parents by \$500 to an average of \$2800 per annum, per child.

For an economy in very deep trouble, this is not the economic miracle every one was hoping for. In fact, this seems only to be a drop in the ocean, for there is a wide consensus of opinion that the drop in the ocean was for the benefit of the wealthier classes in American society; thus those who were able to survive the recession will fair even better at the expense of the less fortunate.

Other aspects of Bush's speech which are worth noting are his promises to cut the defence, which in the new world climate may seem like a good idea, but may be counter-productive in that many jobs will be lost in the defence industry. Still, these men and women were bound to be the casualties of peacetime whatever the economic state. This was obviously a campaign pledge; his

speech was littered with them and other affirmations to try to increase his waning popularity with the American people.

The president tried to push the ideas of traditional family values, hinting at the anti-abortion stand which he has decided to take for the next election. He spoke of the family being the basis for American life and in doing so must have won favour with the many conservative voters in America.

Bush also urged the predominantly Democratic Congress to rush through his crime bill which would (according to Bush) crack down on crime. The Democrats must be careful not to be seen to be refusing to pass it otherwise they run the risk of getting involved in petty party politics when there is a much more important issue at stake.

When addressing the administration's policy on health care, Bush failed to offer adequate help to the millions who have insufficient medical insurance or none at all. He rejected out of hand a move toward a national system, claiming that it would lead to a reduction of choice of doctors and hospitals and furthermore would lead to larger waiting lists and lines.

George Bush kept referring to the "miracle" which was America, and in doing so distracted from the real problems at hand. While hiding behind patriotic rhetoric may influence his popularity in the short term, he must know that America's economic and social problems will endure, and to tackle these effectively can be the only way he will once more gain popularity, and more importantly, credibility with the American people.



## Views From The Editor's Desk

By Dawn E. Camp

Editor

Good grief! What do I have to do to get a response from you people? All you had to do was cut out a box (you could even rip it out), draw a couple of circles, and MAYBE scribble some comments. Had you done this, you too could have been a part of our opinion survey concerning the possible change to university status.

Now, we knew that our survey wouldn't be very scientific, but we did expect some response. Ah well, eternal optimism was met with apathy--AGAIN!! Only nine people--out of the entire student body and faculty--returned the survey which we printed in the last issue of The Pilot.

But, it's your lucky day. I'm feeling generous. I will hold off scraping the whole survey until Feb. 14. So, if you feel so moved, find a copy of the last Pilot (the blue one) and send in your opinion. Surely, more than .0045 percent of the GWC population has an opinion. Why don't you share it with the rest of us??

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Letters from students, faculty, and staff of Gardner-Webb College are welcome. Please place letters in campus mail addressed to The Pilot.

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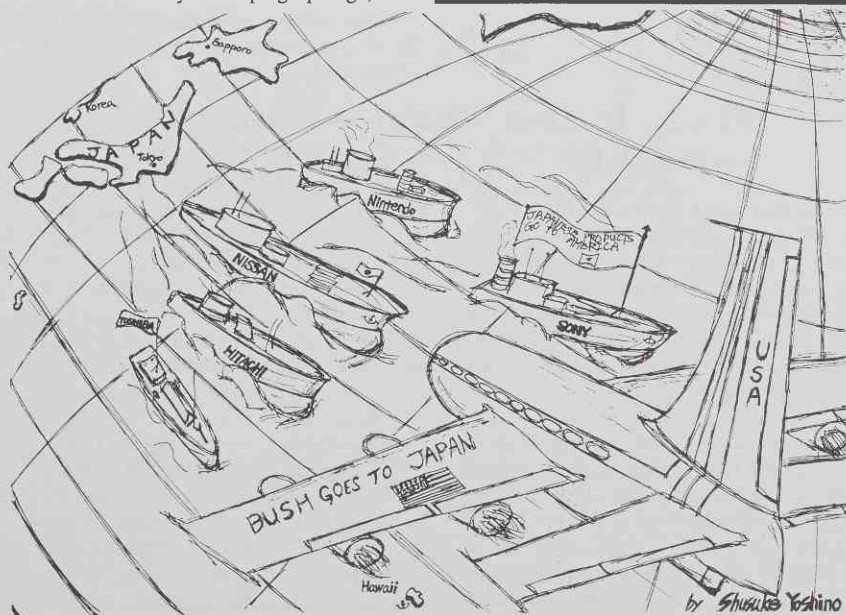
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