

The Little Things
There's nothing like
family.
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OPINION

Foreign Aid
America's aid to other coun-
tries: too much or just
enough?
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Second term almost underway, high expectations for Bush's inauguration speech today

Emily Golden
Reporter

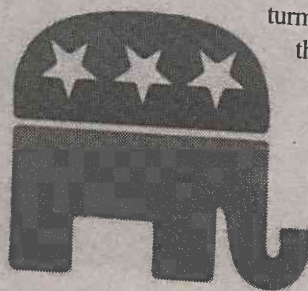
Inauguration Day is today, Jan. 20, and when the time comes for George W. Bush to give his inauguration speech, many issues need to be addressed.

When Bush gave his inauguration speech in 2001, he touched on the ideas of Social Security, Medicare reform and a plan to build defense. He also spoke on a plan to seek out weapons of mass destruction.

While we can be almost positive that Bush will not have much to say concerning weapons of mass destruction this year, there are a number of issues extremely important to American citizens. There are usual concerns about Social Security, Medicare, education and defense but what is going to make these years different? What problems and questions will America as a whole need to deal with that they never dealt

with before? It is important for Bush to at least touch upon some of these things, in order for the American people to have a clear image of how the next four years are going to be.

Iraq is one of the most prevalent issues facing the United States. Presidential elections in Iraq are imminent. Violence and



turmoil have besieged the country. It has been said that once a solid government is settled, America will pull out. Is this still the plan and if so when will we do this?

In the past month, the world has merged together to help tsunami victims in Asia. Hundreds of thousands of people are dead or missing and countless others are without housing. In a situation

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of this magnitude there is no such thing as short-term. The American people need to help, and what our plans are.

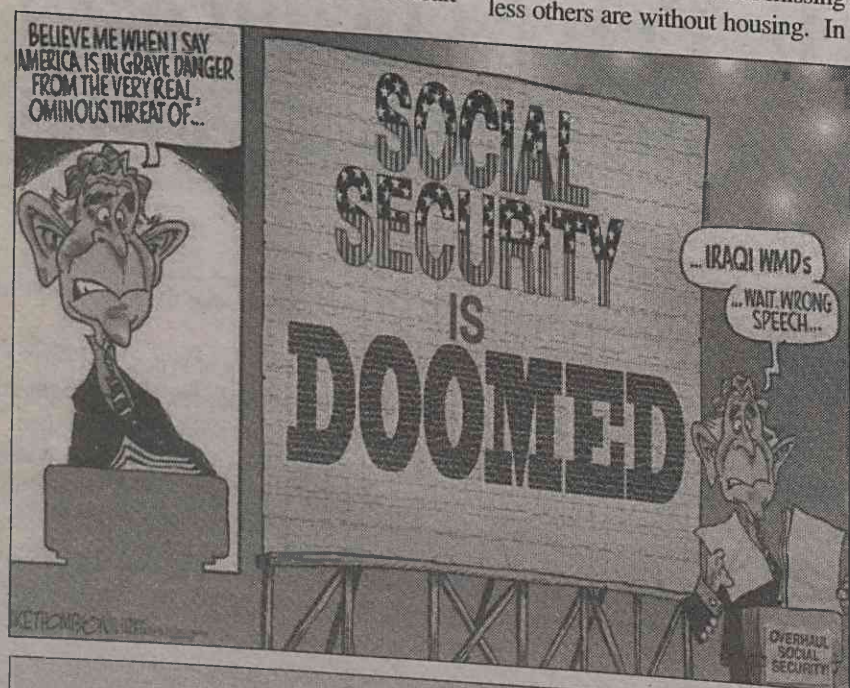
Numerous other issues, without being addressed in the inauguration speech, will have a huge impact on Americans way of living and relating to each other for years to come.

Separation of church and state including abortion and same-sex marriages is one of the biggest issues Americans will have to face. Many experts will argue that more than ever both sides of the government are finding it almost impossible to compromise. I feel that the above concerns and issues should definite-

ly be addressed within American society.

It is important for Americans not to be one sided. Whether it's our involvement in Iraq, education reform or the issue of same-sex marriages, we must be able to see the middle ground in order to benefit everyone. Not every issue can simply be a question of black and white or right and wrong. We must have more shades of gray in a world where there are so many complex situations and problems.

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Catch the inaugural action

- ABC General Coverage 10a.m.- 4p.m.
- NBC General Coverage 10a.m.- 4p.m.
- CBS General Coverage 10a.m.- 3p.m.
- CNN George W. Bush: The Road Ahead 10a.m.- 5p.m.

Ransom's Random Ramblings

I hope everyone had a good holiday season but alas, it is now time for us to go into the tri-semester, Winter Term.

I know it sounds as if Elon University is pregnant, but at least she produced some really cool classes such as "Tragically Funny" and the "Business of Nascar." Students will understand why it is so funny when a ridiculous wreck occurs and how the driver may be able to afford his medical bills.



Michael Ransom

It must be said, the break was a nice and relaxing time away from academics. However, the holiday season is not without its bumps and slow spots. I am currently in the company of three women that are family members and a neutered dog. I feel like I'm a guest on "The View" or a "Lifetime" special.

Other aspects of the holiday season I don't understand include the rotation of present openings on Christmas morning. Strangely, the rotation usu-

ally goes one way, with all the youth. Indeed, the entire holiday can be analogous of a baseball game, because there are some homerun presents such as the Seinfeld DVD, and others strike out like a mechanical humping dog named Humphrey.

One Christmas my uncle struck out big by giving me a gift card to a company that went out of business, attachments included a water gun in December and a basketball goal wastebasket. Honestly, I've never seen more swings and misses since I watched the "Blind Softball Challenge" on ESPN.

I still don't understand why wrapping paper is saved. Just use a gift bag or old newspapers.

The one aspect of gift giving I do like is the joint present. I plan to give one this year, based on last year's result of leaving me dizzy, laughing and craving Cheetos. Hmmmm, I wonder what's in the fridge?

I hope everyone out there had a very happy Chrismahannakwanzikah.

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