

## January Speeches and the Next Four Years

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January does not spring to mind as a politically important month. It is overshadowed by the heat of summer and fall campaigning and the tension of the November elections. However, this past January marked two very important political events, the inauguration of the President of the United States, George W. Bush, and the inauguration of the governor of North Carolina, Michael F. Easley. Both of these men were re-elected to their respective offices in November, so these events were not so much of inaugurations of something new, but confirmations and statements of goals for the next four years.

Governor Easley used his inaugural speech to delineate his agenda for his next term. The governor was sworn in by the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, I. Beverly Lake, on Saturday, January 15, 2005, five days prior to Bush's inauguration. The main focus of Governor

Easley's speech was his continuation of supporting education. During the past four years, the governor has been a strong advocate for education, initiating programs such as More at Four and the Education First Task Force. In his speech, Easley recognized that North Carolina's citizens are living in troubled times, particularly in the economic realm, but declared that the solution to the problems is to "educate our people to navigate this sea of change and set

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a new and better course," to strengthen North Carolina's economy for the future.

Easley not only mentioned the necessity of gaining knowledge from education, but also the importance of creativity and skill-building. Even when showing his support for troops in Iraq, the governor

brought the focus back to education by stating that the best way the citizens of North Carolina can thank and respect these individuals who are putting their lives on the line, is to ensure that a strong education system, resulting in strong economy, representing traditional American values, is in place to provide a solid foundation for the troops.

Governor Easley also stated that a quality education needs to be available to all throughout the state, so that "those in search of talented people and creative minds know that they need look no farther than within the borders of [North Carolina]." He concluded with the assertion that greatness is within reach of all North Carolinians and all we must do is take advantage of opportunities to achieve it.

Five days later in front of the United States Capitol, before a crowd of 500,000, President Bush was sworn in by the Chief Justice of the

United States Supreme Court, William H. Rehnquist. In his speech, Bush focused on the spread and protection of democracy, both at home and abroad. He stated,

"We have seen our vulnera-

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bility - and we have seen its deepest source. For as long as whole regions of the world simmer in resentment and tyranny - prone to ideologies that feed hatred and excuse murder - violence will gather... There is only one force of history that can break the reign of hatred and resentment... and that is the force of human freedom."

Bush used this statement as a jumping off point to declare that the only way America can remain strong is to work for liberty in the rest of the world. Following this opening, Bush outlined his policies and plans to achieve this goal in the next four years.

These efforts include the support of democracy in nations throughout the world without infringing upon their native culture, the support equal treatment of humans throughout the world, improving the quality and image of life in the United States through strong education, increased home and business ownership, and the widening of retirement savings and health insurance.

Bush also stated that the citizens of America must be unified and value the life we see in one another. He closed saying, "Renewed in our strength - tested, but not weary - we are ready for the greatest achievements in the history of freedom," and invoking God's blessing over the nation.

Both of these speeches gave a good indication of what the future holds for North Carolina and the United States during these next four years and a way to test whether these officials will ultimately accomplish what they have set out to do.

## Mini-Term Madness

YING LIU

How would you like to visit China with your Asian teachers? Or go to Disney World with your favorite physics teacher? If math is more your thing, you can explore origami, infinity and randomness. If you like English you can read Shakespeare.

Mini-Term is the time of year where busy science-and-math's can explore an interest or just have fun.

Trips are always a favorite, and this year is no different. There are trips to Italy, France, Germany, Greece, and China. Students have prepared for months for these trips and have learned a little about the food and language.

For those students who prefer nature over hotels, there is a trip to Belize where students can camp under the stars and explore ecological systems.

Other trips inside the country include a trip to Disney World with Dr. Kolena. Groups are also

going to Washington D.C. to tour the Russian Embassy and the Holocaust Museum. In addition, there is a trip to New York which will allow students to learn accounting.

While some students opt for a trip, many will stay on campus. If students wish to use Mini-Term for academic classes, there are many options. For math lovers, there are classes about origami, sets, infinity and randomness, and surreal numbers. For science lovers, there is an ecology class, an organic chemistry class, and a class about the human genome and disease.

Other students can also enjoy literature and culture. There are classes where students can read Shakespeare with Dr. Miller and Mr. Woodmansee or Metamorphosis with Ms. Moose. Students are also learning about Irish culture, Esperanto, local Native Americans, and Themes of French Films.

There are also many independent studies

occurring on campus. As in the past, a group of students are making a movie, similar to a modern day Medea. Caroline Saul and Heidi Scronce are examining the effects of exercise on concentration by taking SATs.

Another group is watching films from various decades and discussing their impacts on society. Senior Ryan McInko is creating a computer simulation of the Seize of khe-san from the Vietnam War. Margaret Wu and Lynn Tran are studying fashion and marketing through the ages.

Juniors Calvin Young and Emme Johnston are playing the violin and cello and will be performing at a recital for their final project. Other seniors and juniors will be experiencing life in a commune.

Whatever your choice for Mini-Term, it will be great just to stop classes and to relax. After all, even if you're taking organic chemistry, it will be better than six classes and double labs.

## 2nd Bryan Fire

KRISTOPH KLEINER AND YING LIU

On January 9th, 2005 around 7:45pm, more than 200 students reluctantly evacuated BBR (Bryan, Beall, Reynolds) thinking that it was just another fire drill. Unfortunately, this time it was a real fire.

Three students from 2nd Bryan had set fire to a toilet. According to Harry Tucker, the students sprayed their

toilet with flammable spray and set it on fire. This eventually set off the fire alarm in their room.

The students were found by an SLI and a security officer. They noticed that the background of one of their computers had a picture of a flaming toilet. All of the students confessed to the fire and were put on emergency suspension.

According to the Durham Herald Sun, the students

were arrested and charged with a class E felony. They were later released to their parents, and a trial date was scheduled.

No one was hurt that day, and the fire alarms worked as hoped. However, Harry Tucker warns that the students could have set themselves on fire or burned down their room or even the building. He concedes that the students had no criminal intent and that it was probably all a prank or a fun experiment.

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Harry Tucker does not know of any event like this in the past.

Although the only damage caused was a burnt toilet seat, he says, "It can never be emphasized enough; Fire safety is the number one concern among residential settings. All students and staff should report anyone that endangers lives or property."