

# Responsibility to Fight Terror Emphasized in State of the Union Address

By Taryn Oesch  
Staff Writer

President George W. Bush gave the annual State of the Union Address Tuesday, Jan. 23.

He discussed the economy, healthcare, education, energy, illegal immigration, and then focused the rest of his speech on the war in the Middle East. Later this week he will give a more complete speech on the state of the economy.

President Bush discussed some of the progress made in Iraq thus far, "We stopped an al Qaeda plot to fly a hijacked airplane into the tallest building on the West Coast. We broke up a Southeast Asian terror cell grooming opera-

tives for attacks inside the United States. We uncovered an al Qaeda cell developing anthrax to be used in attacks against America. And just last August, British authorities uncovered a plot to blow up passenger planes bound for America over the Atlantic Ocean."

He also mentioned the establishment of free elections that occurred in 2005 in Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

He reminded Congress that terrorism is still a risk, saying "so long as that's the case, America is still a nation at war."

He also responded to the recent Congressional discus-

sions about increasing troop numbers in the Middle East by saying, "It would not be like us to leave our promises unkept, our friends abandoned, and our own security at risk."

He discussed a new strategy being used in Iraq, a strategy shifting some responsibility to Iraq's government and providing American reinforcements to our troops already in Iraq.

He emphasized his desire to let Iraqis lead, aided by US soldiers. He called on Iraq's government to fight their radicals and end the violence that has plagued their country for years.

However, he said, in order for Iraq to be a

safe, self-sufficient country, Baghdad must be stable.

President Bush explained that if American soldiers leave before Baghdad is secure, "we could expect an epic battle between Shia extremists backed by Iran, and Sunni extremists aided by al Qaeda and supporters of the old regime." This battle would eventually extend to the entire world, Bush said.

He asked Congress to increase the active Army and Marine Corps by 92,000 in the next five years. He also requested a volunteer Civilian Reserve Corps to aid the Armed Forces.

The president

then talked about other parts of the Middle East and the world, discussing the desire to eliminate or prevent the making or buying of nuclear weapons in Iran and Korea, to instill peace in Israel, and to save the people of Darfur.

President Bush finally mentioned the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and poverty around the world, particularly in Africa, asking for continued monetary support from the people of America.

For more information, the entire transcript of the State of the Union Address can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov/stateoftheunion/2007/index.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/stateoftheunion/2007/index.html).

## Student Participates in Campaign Conference Call

In January, former Senator John Edwards held a conference call with student journalists from North Carolina colleges and universities. Meredith student Christy Nash participated in the joint interview and filed the report below for "In A Nutshell."

By Christy Nash  
Staff Writer

John Edwards, former senator of North Carolina, has officially

announced his candidacy for President of the United States. He made the announcement in New Orleans because he "believes it is the truest definition of the two Americas, a division between the haves and the have-nots [and] believes that in New Orleans exists great poverty, yet a great attitude among the people."

Edwards' campaign headquarters are based in Chapel Hill because he wanted it located in a place that is familiar to him. Edwards also said he enjoys being

in an area that is bursting at the seams with college students.

He feels "they have the energy and enthusiasm necessary to make a difference in this country." His website shows that he is attempting to appeal to young voters with a U2 video as well as a blog.

Voting has increased among the 18-24 age group in recent years so Edwards wants that trend to continue.

Edwards has started an organization called One Corps, in which members take the initiative to better the conditions of the environment. Chapters of One Corps exist all over the country, as well as on several college campuses.

Edwards hopes that one day Meredith

will have its own chapter. One Corps held a National Day of Action on January 27, in which various chapters completed projects that will help to conserve energy and fight global warming.

Aside from the environment, Edwards is also passionate about combating poverty. He

believes there are two important aspects in putting an end to poverty: providing healthcare to all as well as education.

A plan he has already begun to put into effect is something called "College for Everyone" in which the government will pay for the first year of college for a low income student if he or

she is willing to work ten to twenty hours a week.

It is Edwards' hope "that a student will find something he or she enjoys while partaking in this experience and will choose to continue his or her education." He also hopes to put more money into Pell Grants and other student loans.

