

the independent florida

alligator

Not officially associated with the University of Florida
Published by Campus Communications, Inc. of Gainesville, Florida

WE INFORM. YOU DECIDE.

Volume 96 Number 78

www.alligator.org

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2003

Florida inaugurates Bush

By Jon Custer
Alligator Writer

jcuster@alligator.org

In a ceremony at the state Capitol featuring fighter jets and musical acts, Gov. Jeb Bush was sworn-in to his second term Tuesday as the first Republican governor to be re-elected in Florida.

At the swearing-in ceremony, Gov. Bush spent most of his time at the podium espousing the values of faith, friends and family as an alternative to government solutions.

"Government will never fill the hollowness of the human heart," he said.

The governor also pointed out his achievements during his first term, primarily the passage of sweeping changes to the state's education system.

"We have done nothing less than revolutionize education in Florida," Bush said, blaming "protectors of the status quo" for blocking progress.

In his second term, Bush said he would focus on building the economy, promoting reading and strengthening families.

"It is my goal in the next four years to help grow an economy that will give our people the opportunities they deserve," Bush said. "Already we have seen the wisdom of cutting taxes and red tape."

But despite his optimism, Bush faces many obstacles in his second term, including dwin-

dling tax revenues that are putting the squeeze on state programs already desperate for cash.

Bush will also preside over the implementation of voter-approved amendments he ardently opposed, including one that seeks to recreate the Board of Regents he scrapped as part of his education overhaul. Additionally, he faces a mandatory class-size amendment that could cost billions of state dollars.

Bush defeated Tampa lawyer Bill McBride in November in a close race that ended with Republicans seizing the governorship and sweeping both houses of the state legislature.

Bush's three-day, \$1 million inauguration celebration was slightly more modest than his last \$1.6 million extravaganza, with only one event outside of Tallahassee.

The swearing-in, attended by about 5,000 spectators in 40-degree weather, featured John Popper of the band Blues Traveler singing the National Anthem as well as Christian singer Michael W. Smith, the 13th Army Band, the Tallahassee Boy's Choir, and a fly-over by military jets.

The governor's eldest son George P. Bush presided over the ceremonies, which also included an appearance by Bush's parents, former President George H. W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush.



MEGAN V. WINSLOW/ALLIGATOR

As wife Columba and children Noelle and George P. look on, Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead swears Jeb Bush in for a second term as Florida's Governor.