

Vice Presidential Debate

By Will Lutz

John Edwards and Richard Cheney faced off at the Vice Presidential debate Tuesday evening in Cleveland, Ohio on Tuesday, October 5. Over 40 million people tuned in to watch the candidates discuss issues such as the War on Terror, same sex marriage, and health care. Early reports indicated differing reactions to the debate, but an ABC snap poll declared Cheney the winner. An independent, voter based CBS poll reported that 41% said Edwards won, 28% chose Cheney and 31% thought it was a tie. Edwards blasted President Bush's administration for not being candid about the truth in Iraq, while Cheney claimed the Kerry/Edwards campaign doesn't have the resolve and credibility to understand the depth of the War on Terror.

The first question of the night, directed to Cheney, concerned the war in Iraq, to which Cheney stated, "It's important to look at all developments in Iraq in the global context of the war on terror." Edwards quickly responded, "Mister Vice President, you're still not being straight with the American people." He congratulated Cheney on his difference with President Bush on the subject of same sex marriage, citing Cheney's homosexual daughter. He also attacked Cheney for suggesting a link between Iraq and Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Ladin. Cheney denied ever claiming there was a direct link, instead, claiming that there was a "established Iraqi track record with terror."

The debate may not have swayed the minds of many voters considering the CBS poll, but many people will remember Vice President's Cheney's gaffe on the factcheck.com, which is a pro-Bush website, instead of factcheck.org. It was interesting to see the two together and, Cheney claimed they had never before met. In reality, they had indeed met at a prayer breakfast three years ago.

said Wong.

Keever, a Democrat, is running against Republican Charles Taylor for North Carolina's 11th District representative in the U.S. House. Currently, Keever is serving as Buncombe County commissioner after retiring from 25 years of teaching in North Carolina.

The Last Debate

By Will Lutz

The final debate between George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry took place on Wednesday, October 13 at the University of Arizona at Tempe. John Kerry tried to hold onto his momentum after the first two debates. President Bush tried to state the differences between himself and John Kerry. However, according CNN pollsters Kerry won the last debate 52% to 39%. Many commentators said no incumbent president lost all three debates and no incumbent president has an approval rating of less than 50%. Things look bad for the President, but John Kerry hasn't yet inched ahead of him. Only time will tell what Americans feel about this.

On campus, students need to discuss the issues that face them, for example, tuition increases, health care, taxes, etc. The candidates have clearly different platforms make sure you do your homework to see which one is better. Don't let the polls tell you how to vote make your own decision.