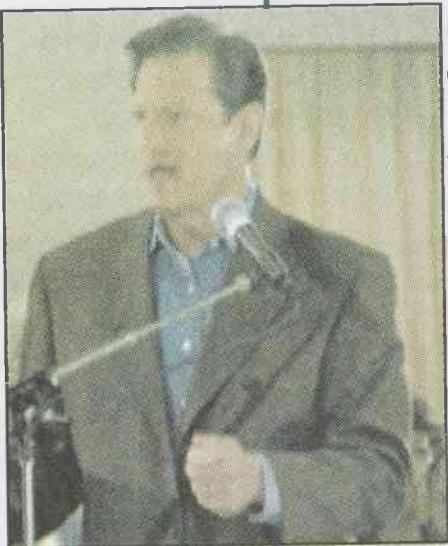


While much of the blame concerning the "debates of the debates" was directed at Gov. Bush, many also faulted Gore. In an interview this summer with Tim Russert of "Meet the Press", Gore promised to debate Bush "anytime, anywhere." Following Gore's rejection of his proposed schedule, Bush asserted that the credibility of the Vice-President had been tarnished.

The acceptance of the debate schedule proposed by the Commission of Presidential Debates shifts attention away from the overly-hyped political conventions and highlights the heart and soul of election —the issues. Craig Warner, president of the UNC College Republicans said, "Debates are a rare opportunity to hear from the candidates."



The issues in this year's election cover a broad spectrum of topics. While students may not be interested in issues like missile defense, they should pay attention to the candidates' stances on education, affirmative action and the candidates' opinions regarding future Supreme Court nominations," says Brook. "One of the great legacies of this Administration is going to be the composition of the Supreme Court." Of the nine sitting Justices on the Court, it is possible that one will retire in the coming years. Reorganization would shift the narrow liberal/conservative margin of the Court and could reverse many previous decisions.

Education is also a big issue. Both Bush and Gore have proposed plans that will increase tax credit for college tuition. Warner also highlighted that Bush wants to improve elementary and high school education.

It appeared for some time that Gov. Bush and Vice President Gore would not reach an agreement on the debate schedule; now the two candidates have agreed to meet in upcoming weeks. Now that the dust has settled, voters have their chance to hear from the candidates.

Debate Schedule

- October 3** John F. Kennedy Library; University of Massachusetts, Boston
- October 5** Centre College; Danville, Kentucky
- October 11** Wake Forest University; Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- October 17** Washington University, St. Louis