

USA TODAY: 'People are
convention about how
George Bush's son.'



Photos by Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

his dog, Spot, at the governor's mansion in Austin, Texas. Spot is the off-
own to the nation while President Bush occupied the White House.

ices 'people
in any way
'

as — As he prepares to accept
in presidential nomination next
Philadelphia, George W. Bush is
most defiantly — embracing his
cal legacy and acknowledging
president's role in his campaign.
all the time. 'He's just George
and I'll tell you, I'm going to say it,
be George Bush's son,' the Texas
in an interview Thursday with
And people are going to hear at
on about how proud I am to be
son.'

vision to choose former U.S. rep-
rick Cheney as his running mate
president Bush's role under the
scope again: What was the sen-
e in helping his son choose Che-
ved as Defense secretary in the
ministration? One columnist said
resident handpicked Cheney to
ter' for his son.

minute interview at the gover-
n, the younger Bush was unusu-

ally open about his relationship with his fa-
ther. He wasn't defensive or annoyed, as he
has sometimes seemed when questioned
about the elder Bush's role in this year's
presidential campaign. Instead, he seemed
ready to challenge his critics.

"Of course I talk to my dad," Bush said.
"About (Cheney's selection) and a lot of other
things. It's no sign of weakness to talk to
your dad."

Vice President Gore's campaign has
seized on the Cheney announcement to re-
peat a theme that Democrats have been striking for
weeks and will surely continue to use: Another Bush
presidency would be a re-
turn to the past.

Such attacks hit a nerve. The Bush family
is sensitive to suggestions that the former
president's oldest son is running for presi-
dent to avenge his father's 1992 loss to Bill
Clinton or that he's somehow trading on his
father's name. The family also doesn't like
hearing critics say Bush is surrounding him-
self with aides who will repeat mistakes
made during President Bush's administra-
tion or that he needs those White House
veterans because of his own inexperience.
Those accusations, as well as questions
about whether the father's successes some-
how diminish the son, hit fever pitch after
the senior Bush referred to his son as "this
boy of ours" at a rally before New Hamp-

Please see COVER STORY next page ►



Poll: Bush up by 11 points

By Richard Benedetto
and Susan Page
USA TODAY

PHILADELPHIA — Texas Gov.
George W. Bush has done a better
job than Vice President Gore of
convincing voters he's personally
suited to be president, a new USA
TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll shows.

As Republicans prepare to open
their national convention here
Monday, Bush held an 11-point lead
over Gore in a survey taken Tues-
day and Wednesday, after his selec-
tion of former Defense secretary
Dick Cheney as running mate.

"Bush has been dominating the
news since last week," Republican
strategist Scott Reed said. "He is
now on a pre-convention roll."

Gore's aides hope to seize the
public's attention and boost their
candidate's standing when he an-
nounces his running mate soon af-
ter the GOP convention ends.

By 65%-31%, those polled said
Bush has the personality and lead-
ership qualities a president should
have. Gore had a 49%-49% split.

Bush led Gore 50%-39% among
likely voters, up from a virtual tie
just 10 days earlier.

Mark Fabiani, Gore's deputy
campaign manager, notes that
Bush's father was leading before
the national conventions in 1992
only to lose to the Clinton-Gore
ticket. "So stay tuned: History is
about to repeat itself."

One-fourth of those polled said
they could change their minds.

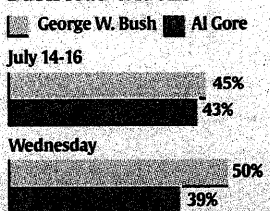
Now, however, Bush is seen as
significantly better at handling such
key issues as national defense, tax-
es and foreign affairs, trade and the
budget surplus.

Gore is rated significantly better
at handling the environment and
Medicare.

However, on Social Security and
education, issues that traditionally
benefit Democrats, the candidates
are rated about evenly.

Bush is preferred on handling the
economy even though many Dem-
ocrats see the current prosperity as
their strongest advantage.

Bush lead widens



Source: USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll of 632 likely
voters conducted Tuesday and Wednesday.
Margin of error: ±4 percentage points.

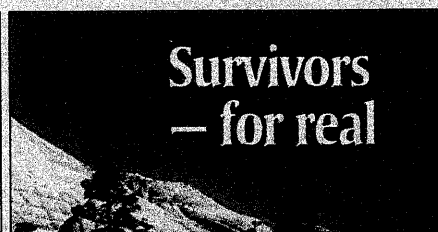
By Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY

online data soar

mail providers up 800%, study finds

o comment.
service providers and
providers in the USA
enced a significant in-

reason for concern.
So far, he says, the law has treat-
ed stored records, such as e-mail,
as it treats other documents, such



Survivors — for real

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